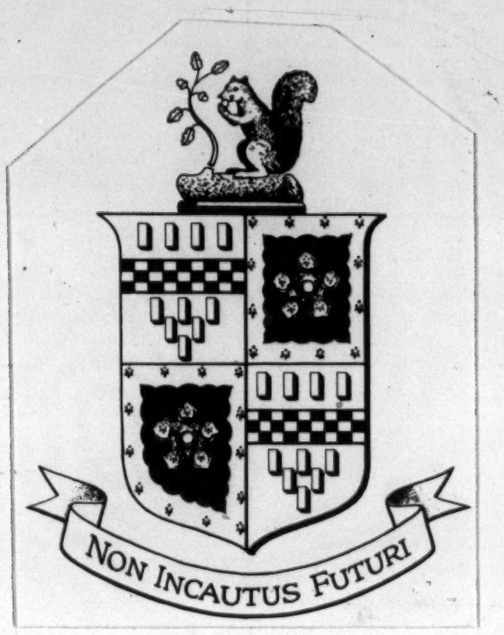
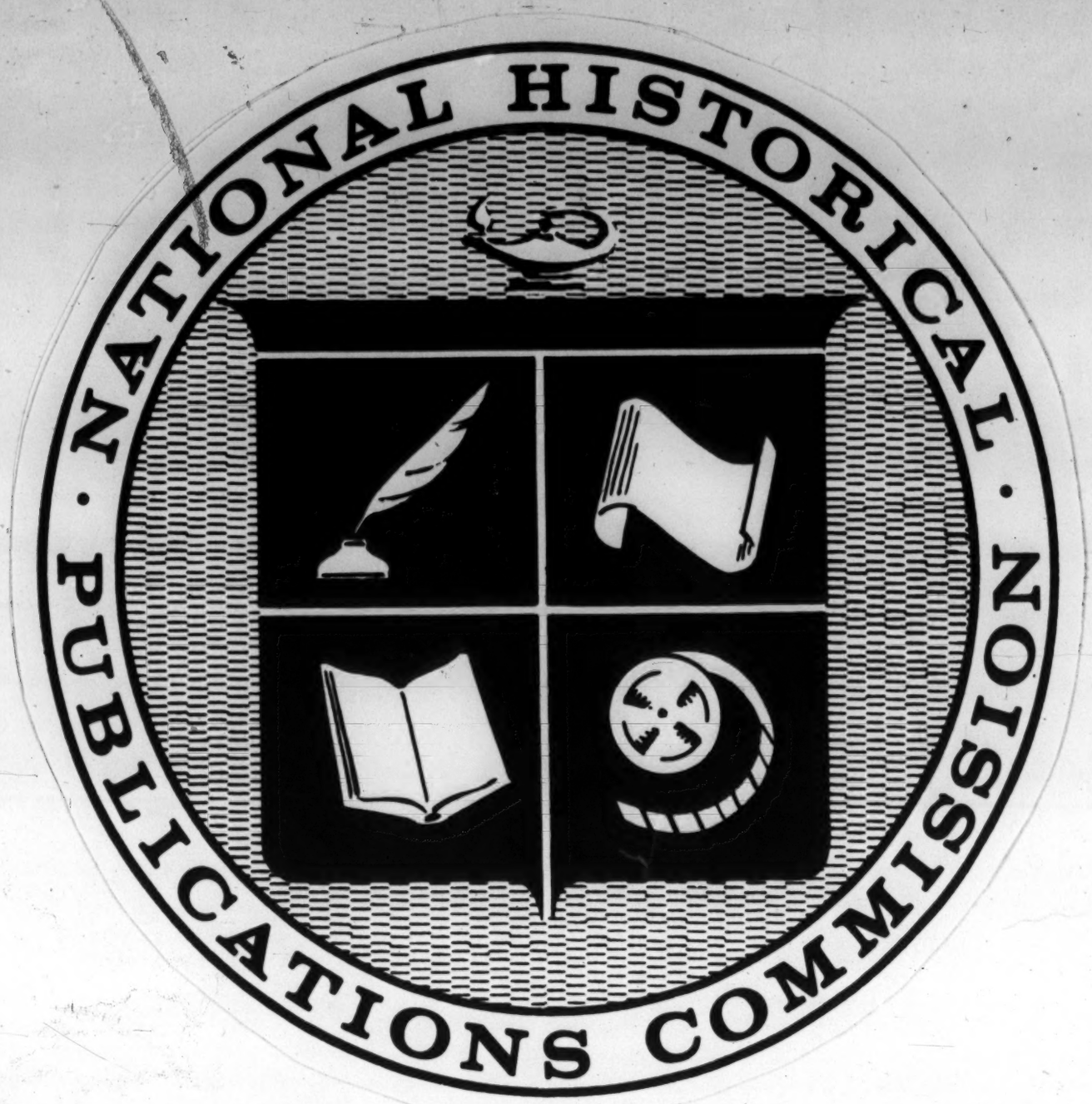
The Lee Family Papers
1742 - 1795



Paul P. Hoffman, Editor
John L. Molyneaux, Assistant Editor

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"The family of Lee . . . has more men of merit in it than any other family."

--*John Adams to Samuel Cooper*
February 28, 1779

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THE LEE FAMILY PAPERS, 1742-1795

ROLL TWO

1 January 1770--31 December 1776

Personal, Political, and Commercial Correspondence.

18 September 1775--10 September 1777

Proceedings of the Secret Committee of the Continental Congress.

1776-1778

Papers of Robert Morris and John Ross.

1776-1787

Papers of William Brigham.

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ROLL NOTES

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ROLL TWO:

This roll contains material illustrative of the procession to war on both sides of the Atlantic in 1775. In England, Arthur and William Lee led active and exciting lives. William, newly married, worked energetically in commerce, receiving tobacco from Virginia and shipping needed goods thence. There are numerous letters from him to Francis Lightfoot Lee (especially) and Richard Henry Lee concerning trade and shipping. He was as politically minded as his more famous brothers, and his letters often contain political material. William was elected sheriff of London in 1773, and alderman from Aldgate ward in 1775 (which post he resigned only in 1780). Arthur Lee studied law at the Middle Temple from 1770 through 1774, and was called to the London bar in April 1775. He was assistant to Benjamin Franklin, agent for Massachusetts Bay, until 1775, when on 19 March Franklin wrote him, turning all the Massachusetts papers over to him, saying, "You will if you think fit continue...the Agent for the Assembly of...Massachusetts, which I cannot again undertake." Lee was also active in the "Bill of Rights" society and had a hand in preparing letters and petitions of that group --a draft of a letter to the Lord Mayor of March 1771 is in his hand, and he mentions such activity in a letter to R. H. Lee of 11 June 1771. This last letter contains a good insight into how Arthur then regarded the political contest between England and the colonies. In the midst of political news, he mentions the education of Richard Henry's son, Ludwell: if Ludwell were to be trained in the law, "By the time he woud be fit for the Temple, I shall [be able] to assist him [in] his Studies." As the boy was barely eleven years old, it would seem his uncle was optimistic about the settlement of the political problems. Arthur Lee also turned his efforts to pamphlets, producing several on American affairs; a few drafts of his letters of "Junius Americanus" (1770) appear in this roll. Not all his time was spent on such serious business; on 10 September 1774 William Lee wrote to R. H. Lee, "I have perused yr. letter to our Br. A. as he is absent on a tour to Italy." Among the more interesting items in this roll are a letter from Isaac Barré to Arthur Lee, January 1771; letters from Mrs. Catherine Macauley to Arthur Lee (1773) and R. H. Lee (1775); a report of the Privy Council on a petition from the Massachusetts Bay House of Representatives, February 1774, mentioning an interview with Lord Chatham and describing his views; and the first contacts of Arthur Lee with Count de Vergennes and C. W. F. Dumas (June and September 1776).

In the colonies the development of revolutionary attitudes and the interchange of ideas is well represented in the letters to and from Richard Henry Lee. His most important correspondents are Samuel Adams, John Dickenson, Robert Carter Nicholas, General Charles Lee, Edmund Pendleton, John Page, George Washington, John Augustine Washington, and William Shippen, Jr. On 9 August 1774 George Washington wrote R. H. Lee asking whether he thought the deputies from Virginia to the general congress should have "authentick lists of our Exports, & Imports generally, but more especially to Great Britain?" Washington also says that should Lee be going to Philadelphia by land, he would like to travel with him. Writing to Thomas Jefferson on 3 November 1776, Lee described Benedict Arnold as "firey, hot, and impetuous, but without discretion." Other items of interest are the depositions given by men involved in the battles of Lexington and Concord, April 1775; the proceedings of the Secret Committee of Congress (later Committee of Foreign Affairs), September 1775 to September 1777 (in a separate series at the end of the roll); the instructions of Congress to commanders of ships of war, April 1776; the draft copy of the Declaration of Independence sent by Thomas Jefferson to R. H. Lee in July 1776; an abstract of money advanced by Congress to various people and companies from September 1775 to August 1776 (placed under latter date); and various documents and letters concerning the appointment of Commissioners to France in September and October 1776.

(16) Janry 1768

To the Kings Most Excellent Majesty in Council

The Humble Petition of Denny DeBerdt Agent for the Assembly of the Massachusetts Bay

Sheweth

That your Petitioner has received Notice of an order of Council having passed on the 21st of Decem for the Assembly of Massachusetts Bay to make good certain Allegations against Govr Burnard, before your Majestys Privy Council on the 27th January inst.

And as it is impossible in that time to obtain from beyond Sea such evidences as are necessary to support those Allegations

Your Petitioner humbly prayeth in behalf of the said Assembly that the Trial may be deferd for some M.s in order that due time may be allowed for obtaining from such a distance the proofs requisite to confirm the several Charges urged against Sir Francis Burnard

And your Petitioner as in duty bound shall ever Pray

Copy of a Petition delivered By D. DeBerdt at the Council Office January 18th 1773

A Petition to the
Counsel for longer
time Dat.d Janu.y 28.

1770

(N. 43)

London Feb. 15th 70

My dear Mr

[Never was I more hurt, than at the neglect of my friends, last Assembly in not writing me one syllable of its transactions. At this critical period, nothing is of more importance here than the real sentiments & conduct of the Virginia Assembly. The Address of the House, which I have seen by accident, is something mysterious, under which I flatter myself there is more spirit couched, than it at first imports. For otherwise, there surely never were such wretched dupes to the bombast rant of an imposing Gr & the delusive promises of an unfriendly Minister. When all their promised is performed, you will have paper one penny a piece cheaper, but with you be less slaves? Will the right of taking every penny you have to dispose of or impaired by taking off those duties avowedly because they are anti-commercial & leaving the Act which is the herald of their tyranny unrepealed. I

My political sentiments you have in the inclosed paper, which if you think proper I intend for your perusal.

This Ministry, who set every thing

to sale, are going to make a grant of our Lands to a Company of Adventurers, headed by the mercenary villainous L.d Hertford; for about ten thousand pounds, which they pretend is in compensation of the expence attending the treaty with the Indians, by which those Lands are secured. I have thrown in a Petition at the Board of Trade, to prevent those Lands, which are located in our former Petition, from being granted away 'till I hear from the Company. I did this, without any hope of success, both because if this Ministry remain any time, no motives of justice will stop them in this or any job, nor do the Company seem inclined to act any further in the business. But I thought it my duty not to desert the Company, tho' they have neglected me; & if any sudden change of Administration should take place, which is not improbable, their grant may be arrested & my solicitation successful.

Mr Russell told a number of Gentlemen the other day before me, that you believe he first to break the Association. I mention this to put you on your guard against him; believe me he is both a knave & a fool, & requires all possible caution to deal with him accordingly. He has I believe as much regard for you, as for any man breathing; &

but neither his age, his character nor his profession, will authorise you to expect friendship from him. After what I have heard him say of & that repeatedly concerning you, I am certain that no connection with him can be for your honor or your interest. I do not know how you stand with him, but if there is not some absolute necessity for it, as a friend & a Brother I must advise you to settle & seperate from him as soon as possible. I declare to god, I shall never be easy on your account, while I know you are concerned with one, whom from long & intimate observation I am fully convinced is as void of principle as any mortal breathing.

I am quite unsettled in my own plan, & therefore cannot write you any thing respecting myself.

My love to all with you

Farewell.

D. L.

Leiden
Feb. 15. 1770

(No 43)

(No: 165.)

No. 165

1770

Lee

Politics

Boston New England March 23: 1770

Sir

(10)

It is in Consequence of an Appointment of the Town of Boston that we have the honor of writing to you, and of communicating the enclosed Narrative, relative to the Massacre in this Town on the 5th Instant.

After that execrable deed, perpetrated by Soldiers of the 29th Regiment, the Town thought it highly expedient, that a full and just representation of it should be made to Persons of Character as soon as may be, in order to frustrate the designs of certain Men who, as they have heretofore been plotting the ruin of our Constitution and Liberties, by their Letters Memorials and Representations, are now said to have procured depositions in a private manner, Relative to the said Massacre, to bring an Odium upon the Town, as the aggressors in that affair. But we humbly apprehend, that after examining the said Narrative, and the Depositions annexed to it, you will be fully Satisfied of the Falsehood of such a Suggestion: and We take upon ourselves to declare upon our honor and Consciences, that having examined critically into the matter, there does not appear the least ground for it.

The Depositions referred to (if any such there be) were taken without notifying the Selectmen of the Town, or any other Persons whatever, to be present at the Caption in behalf of the Town: which, as it has been a thing justly complained of heretofore in some other Cases, so the Town now renew their

Complaints

Dennis De Berdt Esq.r

Complaints on the same head; and humbly presume such Depositions will have no weight till the Town has been Served with Copies of them, and an Opportunity given them to be heard in their defence in this matter, and in any other, wherein their Character is drawn into Question with a view of passing a Censure upon it.

A different Conduct was observed on the Part of the town: The Justices with a Committee to assist them made their examinations publicly: most of them at Faneuil Hall, and the rest where any persons might attend. Notifications were Sent to the Custom house, where the Commissioners of the Customs Sit, that they or any persons in their behalf might be present at the Captions: and accordingly Mr: Sheaffe the Deputy Collector, and Mr: Green, Tenant of the Custom house under the Commissioners and employed by them, were present at many of them.

One of the said Commissioners Mr: Robinson in a Secret manner has embarked on board Capt: Robson, and Sailed for London the 16th: Instant, which with three of the other Commissioners retiring from the Town and not having held a Board for some time since the 5th: Instant, gives reason to apprehend they have planned and are executing a Scheme of misrepresentation to induce Administration to think, that their persons are not in Safety in this town in the absence of Troops. But their Safety is no way dependent on troops: for you are Sensible Sir, that if any Evil had ever been intended them, troops could not have prevented it.

It was so apparently incompatible with the Safety of the Town for the Troops to continue any longer in it, that His Majesty's Council were unanimous in their advice to the Lieutenant

Governor

Governor, that they should be removed to Barracks at Castle Island. And it is the humble and fervent prayer of the Town, and the Province in General, that his Majesty will graciously be pleased, in his great Wisdom and goodness, to order the said Troops out of the Province; and the dutiful and loyal Subjects of this Town and Province — dutiful and loyal, notwithstanding any representations to the Contrary — may not again be distressed and destroyed by Troops: for preventing which we beg leave in behalf of the Town to request most earnestly the favor of your interposition and influence. — We have the honor to be with the most perfect regard

Sir

(Duplicate

Your most Obedient
and very humble Servants
per
Jam.s Bowdoin
Jam.s Pemberton
Joseph Warren

Jas. Bowdoin, Sam[l] Pemberton
& Joseph Warren
to
Dennis DeBerdt
March 23[d] 1770
Concerning Boston Massacre
(Autograph Signatures)

1770

(Argyle)

Dear Sir

Philadelphia 29. March 1770

I received your favor by Capt. Sidebottom & have endeavoured as much as possible to send y^r Paper &c, but we have not had one ream sent to town these 7 months, the man says they can't size it in cold weather but I may depend on some in 10 days. — I order'd ye Iron to be made last november & the smith never began 'till last monday & they are not yet finished, but the very next vessel to Potomac or Rappahanoc shall take them &c to Col. Franks richlee. — Our Spring only begins to make its appearance —

I always was of opinion our Bro.r Doct.r missed it in leaving virginia & am very sorry Fees come in so slowly for he is very clever. — We are much grieved to hear our Bro.r Francis, is in so bad a state of health, they say consumptive, for god sake let him ride all this summer for his life & leave his Lady behind. — pray inform us what is his true situation. — My son Tom longs for the combat, & my daughter wonders she hears from no swain. — I repeat hate but not with lost affection

I subscribe myself

Dear Your Bro.r

& humble Serv.t

Wm. Shippen

Mrs. Shippen greets you all affectionately. —

Postscriptum
Leiden 29 Mch. 1776

To

Richard Henry Lee Esqr.

at Chantilly Westmoreland

Virginia.

By Capt Tidbottom.

B.O.416

Chantilly

Copy sent

M.S.P.

Dear Sir,

Some Engagements that particularly called upon me, have prevented my writing to you so frequently, as my Inclination led me to do; but the Intermission has afforded me an Opportunity of finding your Regard for me is so firmly rooted as to pardon the seeming Neglect.

Your Account of Lord Shelburne's Sentiments gives great Satisfaction here. Your high Character of his Lordship exactly agrees with the Opinion I entertain of him. Tho' difficult at this Distance to judge nicely of Characters; but from all his Conduct, I am persuaded, he adds unto Integrity to his other great Qualities, that Heartily wish him Success in Power, that would enable him to exercise his Virtues and Knowledge in the most extensive Manner.

our Countrymen continue firm. They know, that not only their own inestimable Interests, but — "et fata Reipublicæ" depend on their Resolution. Would to Heaven! that Ministers, also, could but consider, that their Conduct may decide the fortunes of their Country to the latest Posterity.

Accidents, & Expedients may serve the short Space of one or two Administrations. "The Exports to Germany Russia & Turkey" may keep the People quiet for a While: but when the Demand & Cravings of the Nation look for among her despised, insulted Colonies for a Market, She may find, their Resentment, Industry & Frugality, have raised unsurpassable Obstructions, to her former most profitable Commerce. "Fuimus Troes, fuit Ilium & ingens Gloria Teucrorum." No Force, no Emigration is necessary for our Protection. Divine Providence has put it into

our Power, properly to resent the Indignities offered us, the Injustice done us, in a manner suitable to our Loyalty for our Prince, our affection for our Parental Country. Homespun Coats are all the Armour — Spades & Pruning Hooks the Weapons we shall use in this Holy War. So gentle, and so effectual, are the Means we shall employ. Yet to speak freely, my Heart bleeds at the Prospect of our Success. How mournful a Reflection is it, that a just Regard for our Rights must wound Great Britain, the Mother of brave, generous, humane Spirits, the chief Bulwark of Liberty on this Globe, and the blessed Seat of unsullied Religion.

To this fatal Calamity however, are we driven with all the united Fury of Folly and Wickedness. Every wrong Measure against us, rouses us more & more vigilant in our Defence. We are more & more irritated — combined — encouraged — and determined.

While such Ministers are guided by the false

Representation of villainous Characters on this Continent, and are beginning about Dignity and Authority, they are undermining with the most industrious and prompt Stupidity, the strongest Foundations of their Sovereigns & their Countrys Felicity.

You will hear too soon of the Bostonian Massacre. Perhaps, it may be thought at Home, that the other Colonies will little regard, what immediately relates to that Province. But You may depend on it Sir, that they will think and act as they ought to do. 'Tis true, we have in every Colony Men of some note, who would sacrifice the best Rights of their Countrymen to their own Views — but they are Drops in the Ocean. They have been adorned indeed, by Crown Officers, with the Title of "the better sort of People" — But in Matters of Importance, they are not worth mentioning. The Body is sound & strong; will indubitably triumph in the End over its internal & external Enemies. I am, dear Sir, with the most sincere Esteem, your affectionate Friend & humble Servt.

Philadelphia March 31st 1770

John Dickinson

Please to peruse my Sentiments on this Subject with the utmost Deliberation. Consult the Interests of Liberty — Please to keep them a Secret, that I may not be exposed to Clamour.

recto, P. 1, Top

Dear Brother. Chantilly in Virginia April 6. 1770.

(N° 8)

I wrote you last from Williamsburg by Capt. Nicks, since which I have been favored with two Letters from you, the one by Somerville, the other by Page. I am much obliged to you for the political intelligence they contain. It is some comfort to have the virtuous on our side, although we are unsuccessful. I am therefore much pleased to hear that great and good men Lords Shelburne, Chatham, and Camden are with us. But alas I fear the cause of public liberty, like the setting sun, is going to disappear. Succour from Britain, for Hope America will insist on being free. We are however a good deal disturbed here at the Ld — speech. We cannot make it square with the promises (authorised by the highest authority) made to all the Assemblies by the several Governors. Time must develope this mystery. 'Tis some state trick, that I am honestly convinced will end badly for the Author. Our Assembly meets at its adjourned day in May next, when such measures will be adopted, as our intelligence from London, shall render wise and necessary. I inclosed you the certificates of your appointment that you desired. One of them is signed by Mr. Parker and myself, the other is an exact copy from the book, which it is proper Mr. Lee should sign as he was then Treasurer. We expect you will resume our business when a favorable prospect opens, and beg leave to refer you to my letter by Capt. Nicks on that subject. I do not know how you came to suppose our edition of the Farmers Monitors letters to have been continued by our friend Mr. Parker. It was for the benefit of my Country that suggested the measure to me, and I accordingly wrote the Preface, and the terms, negotiated the whole matter with Printer, and got several hundred subscribers for the pamphlets. Printer thanked me for the great profit he had made, and indeed, in the hands of a diligent Printer, a very considerable benefit would have arisen, as the book was called for faster than he could finish them. Of these pamphlets I have sent one for Lord Shelburne, for Col. Barre, Mr. Macaulay, Mr. Jennings, Mr. Pownall, Mr. Portlock, Mr. John Stewart my friend, Yourself and Mr. Franklin. These, with Letters for them are in a box directed to you, which I have desired Mr. Lee to send you

P. 1, bottom - recto

on

are not in Town, and deliver Mr. Jennings. Mr. Porteus, and Mr. Stewart their pamphlets. Thos for Lord Shelburne, Mr. Macauley, and Coll. Barre, I have requested Mr. Lee to get neatly bound, in London before they are presented - The Letter for them are left with you for your perusal, which you will afterwards please to seal with your arms and deliver.

Capt. Johnston has bought your horse young Dabster for thirteen guineas which I desire you to order him for. I have done every thing in my power to sell the two Dabsters, and the chair — sent them to the Fredericksburg fair, and there Col. Thomas or brother attended with them, and could get but £22. offered for them both. The times are greatly altered here, Carriages do not sell, nor are eight priced horses in demand. As quickly as I can get old Dabster and the chair off, you shall have the money. You have also a bill inclosed for £13. sterling, part of Will Brents prote. This bill came to my hands yesterday, with the ballance £3. 8. 6 in paper currency. If I can possibly, before Johnston sails, get a bill for this, and as much of my own money as will make it up £20. sterling I will not fail to send it. It gives me concern, that I cannot remit all I owe you for the two horses I bought, but I have been cruelly disappointed in not getting any cash up the country, where there £200. now due me. I am going there in a few days, and I think you may depend on it by Greig's ship, that will sail I suppose next month. I am the more affected on this occasion, because I know you want the money. Col. Phil. assures me that Molleson has orders to pay you the interest of your fortune immediately, and he is determined to pay up your interest annually, in consideration of which he requests that you will not send in any power of Attorney against him - He is now much distressed by a judgment that he was surprized with of one Brown's Assignees against him for £600. He is however going directly to sell off all his detatched pieces of land, which with his income from Semple will discharge all demands against him soon. Semple I believe owes him largely now, and he intends (as his Mortgage warrants him) for the future to insist on the most punctual payments, or convey the land to one who will pay. I apprehend that Molleson suppresses orders that he received to pay your money from Col. Phil - Therefore I would enquire of him if he had not received directions to pay you so much money Annually. In the box you will see the Virginia Gazette 15 Feb.y and you may observe the insolent Letter from London 10 Nov.r 1769

recto P. 2, Top

I was resolved not to let insolence and falshood go unpunished, and therefore I sent the press an animadversion on him as well as the other Aldermen - This Gazette is not yet come to hand, but I will send it by next opportunity. Col. Harry Lee tells me that he ordered Mr. Molleson to pay you the seven pistoles for which you left me an order on him. Let me know if you have got this money, or if not, what is Molleson's reason for not paying it. Our relation Capt. John Lee of Essex requests that you will write to Dr. Hamilton of Edenburg to get him a Tutor, and in doing this the following method is to be observed. Capt. Lee has aluady written to one Mr. Robert Fergufson Merchant at Sandgate in the shire of Air, to procure him a Tutor; but fearing this gentleman might not be acquainted with such business, and therefore fail to furnish him, he judged it prudent by you, to apply to Dr. Hamilton - This Mr. Fergufson is acquainted with Mr. Lee's terms, which makes it necessary that he should be applied to, before an engagement is made with a Tutor, and likewise to prevent the accident of two Tutors being sent over. I am acquainted with no part of the terms, but, that Mr. Lee offers £30. a year salary. I have not yet got Mr. Macauley's history - Will you be pleased to purchase it for me, and any other of her works that may be published - Apply to Mr. Lee for cash to pay for these -

You have never informed me, if the wine was received by Dr. Fothergill, or how the old gentleman liked it. The storm in May last, by destroying the grapes, prevented any wine from being made in these parts. I have been constantly on the look out for a rattle snake, and am now promised by a Gentleman above, that he will exert himself to get one against Capt. Greig's ship sails, or Mathews's at furthest. Let me know if you please, whether it will be agreeable to Lord Shelburne, that I send him a cask of our finest cyder made from the peach. It is so highly flavoured, and partakes so much of the fruit, that I really think it is much preferable to the finest Arrack —

I am my dear brother most affectionate faithful friend Richard Henry Lee

recto
P 2, bottom

No 232

Middle Atlantic
March 5th 1770

(Ans)

Abergavenny Monmouthshire
(No 9) May 1. 1770

You will not perhaps my dear friend, be so much surprized at my unusual silence, as I am myself. It seems indeed strange, but I have, as it were, unwillingly resisted a constant inclination to take up the pen, not only to Doctor Lee; but to all my friends, neither can I well describe by what I was prevented. I ought to have taken the first opportunity of thanking my good friend for his last obliging favour, nor can hurry, business, or perplexity excuse the want of such an acknowledgement. Were such excuses allowable, I surely might plead them all; but I do not wish to be so easily forgiven by those whose friendship I esteem at more than common rate. No, my friend, I had rather be obliged to such kind consideration, as your own good nature and friendship, will suggest in my favour.

You are too well acquainted with the strange vicissitudes of this life, to wonder much at our sudden Removal: You will naturally suppose that we must have been influenced by the prospect of some advantage, to quit the peaceful shades of Talbot, where comfort and tranquility smark marked our path. But alas! my dear friend, I am now convinced that there is no situation unattended with disagreable circumstances. Nothing can be more delightfully situated than this little town of Abergavenny and the whole County of Monmouthshire is beyond

discriptions, charming; yet our present situation is very far from being eligible. It is now above three months since fate directed us hither, during which time, we have not been able to procure a decent habitation; but have been tossed about from lodging to lodging, all of them equally inelegant, incommodious and extravagant. Were you to see our present habitation, you would not I am sure, admire at its elegance. We were however obliged to take it, such as it is, with all its shabby furniture, for 4 months to certain, and what is more extraordinary, we think ourselves very lucky in having got a house to put our heads in the worst of times entirely to ourselves, and I assure you that we are not much worse off than many of the genteel inhabitants of this town. We have however room enough, and should your inclination lead you this way, we can furnish you with tolerable entertainment, and what you will esteem far better, a hearty welcome. The country is well worth your admiration — it is indeed delightful, nor is our shabby situation any objection to the people of fashion, by most of whom we are visited.

That you have abjured the practice of physic, I do not wonder. It is of all professions, the last I would chuse, were I a man, for numberless reasons. But you know all the objections that I could possibly urge, or you, who are so well qualified — who have spent so much money and time in the study of physic, would not now begin a new trade one. Your reso-

lution is, I think no less commendable than extraordinary, and well I hope, in the end, more than answer your expectations. You mention nothing of your Bath acquaintance. Has the Study of the Law, or the various pleasures of London obliterated this fair object, or is your silence concerning her, the effect of her own behaviour. Most likely – We are not many of us, fashioned to preserve a solid affection.

I have not mentioned the Doctor, because he begged I would leave him room to speak for himself: I will therefore only trouble you with compliments to Mr & Mrs Gillyatt whenever you see them. Adieu Mon Ami.

We came hither at the earnest solicitation of the commanding Apothecary, who having quarrelled with the Physician, determined to drive him hence, by introducing another. He finds he stands his ground; but 'tis generally believed he will at last be obliged to yield to the Doctor. Be this as it may, we shall certainly continue here during this Summer; so that when the world quits the town, I think you cannot do better than retire to our hills. You may send a few Law-Books by the Carrier (from the George on Snowhile) the Coach sets out from the Bolt in Fore-Street. In the mean time, I think you might now and then favour us with a little Political news; or literary. When you pass by Elmsly's, facing Southampton St. ask if he has advertized my 2d Vol. property. I have seen it only in the St. James's. Has he sent it to the Gloster Journal? Vale

Berkenhout

(No 9)

I forgot to tell you that a damned Son of Bitch one Smith, Upholster, outside Temple Bar, took out a Writ against me, supposing me in Pembroke shire, and since that another, for Goods amounting to ~~about~~ £12 ∴ 13, sent to Talbot about six months ago, without having ~~received~~ the money or having sent me a Bill of Parcels, or any account of their amount. The expences upon these proceedings are £4 ∴ 1 ∴ 11, which sum he caused to be added to the above £12 ∴ 13, and ordered an Attorney here to arest me instantly without query me any notice of his intention. The Lawyer who conducts this infamous affair is one Walter Williams in Bedford Row. I should rejoice to expose this pettyfogger and his Client! Is there no remedy? How could I possibly pay for goods without knowing what they came to? If there be any possible means of recovering the £4 ∴ 1 ∴ 11 (which rather than be arested I chose to pay) I would prosecute the fellow to the utmost. Do you think it worth while to call and threaten the Lawyer or his Client? Pray desire Gillyatt to ask Charley whether he intends to send me a Hat or not? I wrote to him (the Hatter) 3 weeks ago. Remind him also that I want Cruza's direction.

L. Chatham's Motion 14th May 1770.

Mov'd that an humble Address be presented to his Majesty, most dutifully & most earnestly beseeching his Majesty, that in the dangerous state, wherein his kingdom are involved, from the high dissatisfaction generally prevailing at home; & from the most alarming disorders it have unhappily manifested themselves, in his American Dominions, his Majesty will in his great wisdom think fit to take such measures as may effectually prevent more fatal mischiefs, by graciously pleasing to take the recent & genuine sense of this People, by dissolving this present Parliament & calling with all convenient dispatch a new Parl.t

Wch being objected to, after long Debate, the Question was thereupon

Resolved in the negative

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My dear Brother London May. 20th 1770. (65

The Parliament being now prorogued, concludes all hopes of any redress of grievances either for America or great Britain. Several Motions were a week ago made in the Commons, & repeated in the Lords by Mr Burke & the Duke of Richmond, tending to censure all the measures of this Administration relative to America, especially respecting Gl Gage's Circular Letters. They were all rejected in the Lump by a previous question, on which the ministerial Majority was 36[illegible]. L. Chatham has made 2 remarkable Motions this Session, one for dissolving the Parliament the other for censuring those who advised the King's Answer to the London Remonstrance. They were both fruitless, being rejected by a great majority. No Ministry had ever less argument & greater influence.

In the american Debate my L. Hillsborough declared, that all hopes of reconciliation with America were vain, unless the whole authority of this Country was given up; for it was the Navigation Act, which they were aiming to overthrow. Such are the first impressions of this dull arbitrary Lord; & the prejudices which he & his tools labour but too successfully to infuse into others.

The City of London, unawed by their late reception have voted a second Remonstrance, to the Throne; in very spirited terms, which is to be presented next Wednesday.

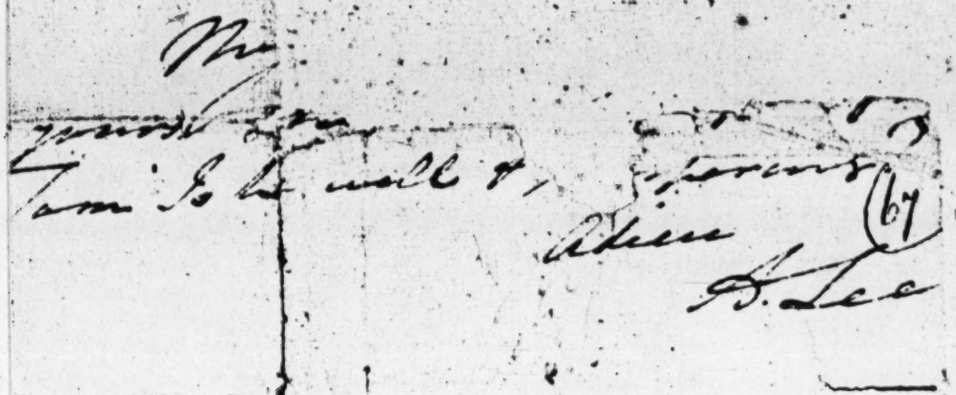
Mr Wilkes, sits & acts as an Alderman with great applause.

The friends of America here are apprehensive, that you will not abide by

your non-importation agreements on which the
prospect of a re-establishment of our invaded
Rights depends. I am sorry I think that in a
cause so manifestly interesting, my Coun-
trymen can be so wanting to themselves
as to give their Enemies their wish, Wan-
tonly for a temporary profit or convenience
the liberties of themselves & their pos-
terity.

Our Friends Mr. & Mrs Lee are well, in the
Country, where I shall visit them as soon
as the Term is over. The Study of the
Law goes on slowly, it is difficult but
pleasant; for it is entirely agreable to my
Disposition. I do not therefore regard with Re-
luctance many, the five years attention
which I must devote to its attainment.

I understand that the Company
here headed by L.d Hertford will certainly
obtain their Grant for those Lands, which
were the object of our Petition. Besides
the support of Money & ministerial
influence, they have the plea of its
being a retribution to the Merchants
in Philadelphia, who suffered at the
commencement of the late war. Col.
Mercer, I am told, has joined with them
in behalf of the Ohio Company. I have
never had any answer to the Petition
I threw in against them; & it being
unsupported by Money will I fear
have very little weight. It surprises me
that I have never received one line
from the Company, for whom I urged their
long since dispatch. I do not regard myself
as acting, but as a volunteer, wishing
to do them any service in my power.



1770
April
Notice

To

Mr. Benjamin Cleveland at
Chuckles
Virginia

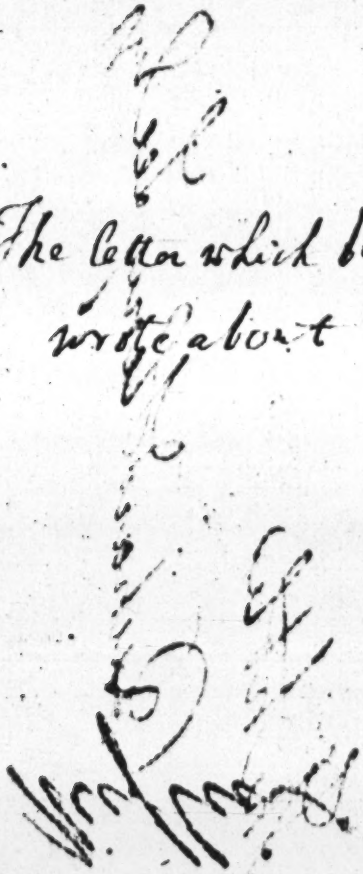
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Mrs. Richard Henry Lee

S. Adams

April 10. 1773

The letter which Wells wrote about



(1847) My de[illegible]ther London July 12th 70

[illegible] very safely the Box of Pamphlets & which you
were so good [illegible]d me by Johnston. L.d Shelburne is gone to Ire-
land & Col. Barré out of town, so that I have not yet presented Mrs
Macaulay's much obl[illegible] to you, & promised to answer
your Letter. Mr. Jennings & Mr. Portlaus will probably write
by Johnston.

By some mistake, I suppose, neither the Ohio Papers
you mention, nor the Gazettes were in the Box. However
I have seen the last in the Virginia Coffee house, & am much
obliged to you for vindicating me, not from an aspersion, for
I regard the authorship of that Letter as known well, but from
an impudent falsehood. Much use has been industriously made
of it here, so that I have not been at a loss for speaking terms
with Mr. Mellon & Norton. The were the most busy in ma-
king me. The last indeed had some reason for it, since
he was drawn in to sign it, not bribed as was the other, &
had the authority of Purdie the Printer, his Son, & Mr.
Nicholas for supposing me the author of that Letter as I
he imagined had in part been. I am a little surprised that
Mr. Nicholas, who published the Letter, & who must have known the
falsehood of the report did not contradict it, but still more
at Mr. Nicholas's conduct who being at Rot very time
in professed friendship & stated correspondence with
me, should expose me to the malevolence of the Lond.
Merchants without asking the Printer, or communi-
cating the report to me. It was bad enough Not to stand
up in defence of his country; but Not to stand forth
in defence of truth, reason & his friend, when first
attempts to pollute Mr. Norton's conduct as the defence
of me, while he pretended to be my friend, have fixed
an opinion of him in my mind never more to trouble him
with my correspondence. Who the person is who under the
signature of a Customer, vented so malicious
a Petition of the Merchants against me I cannot conjecture.
The Mississippi business is now concluded in
effect, tho not in form, for I have received no answer
to the Petition I presented, against the granting our

solicited Lands to a new Company under the c[illegible] Auspices of
L[d] Hertford, M[r] Walpole, D[r] Franklyn, Gover[illegible] mall & other
such ministerial tools. This latter is a job, [illegible] can resist
such schemes, but a heavier purse, which [illegible] wt. their
grant, Sam told, is certainly to be obtained [illegible] Col. Norton
has united the Ohio Company with Kers, [illegible] Ray Morris
is rather too violent to make a new grant directly in the
face of an old one. If this be true, I think you & your Brothers
Phil. & Tom are interested in it, & therefore I would advise
you to be cautious in your conduct with the
new associated Company. For take my word for it, there
are not a great set of greater knaves under Heaven. Col. Norton
& Same originated in a most villainous fraud, & has been
carried on in a scene of corruption, you may guess, that
will not well with Ray will impose on the Ohio Comp.
There were in Philadelphia two sets of Merchants who had
suffered by the depredations of the Indians. They formed the
old & the new Company. They united, & jointly deputed one
Mr. Morton, & the Indian treaty to stipulate for lands
to recompence them. Mr. Morton forms a scheme with
Sir W. Johnson, for the stipulation to be made in favour of
the old Co. into which the latter were admitted. Returning
to Philadelphia, he formed the other Co. soon after
London; where in conjunction with Franklyn & Pownall
they formed this Comp. & proceeded to solicit a grant of two
Millions & a half acres, where we had lately our last
petition, to which they were probably directed by Pownall
the Secretary &c. & the Governor. The new Comp. soon
retained Morton's villainy, & sent powers to a Lawyer
here to remonstrate against his scheme; but he was
upon that taken into the Comp. & their friends betrayed by villainy
& they; then sent over powers to a Solicitor, who unluckily
applying to Franklyn, as a man of ability in American
matters, for his advice, was dissuaded from prosecuting
the business; & then the new Comp. was again betrayed. They
have lately appointed another Agent, but he is entering
as far as I can learn, too late. You see my dear Sir
what villainy is the means of success in these parts
I am sorry my Horses came to so bad a market, but still more
that you should be disturbed about paying for those you took. I
never can be so in want of money as to desire you should give
yourself any uneasiness on that account. I have well
the ill faith of Settlers with you, to be surprised at your
being deceived in that respect. Not one Shilling have

I received [illegible] Williamsburg for the Furniture, Carriage, Debts &c which I left there. Has my Sword never been heard of? It is so [illegible] since I promised our Mr Phil. not to molest him, on account of his paying me annually £200. Mr Mollerson, however informed me of any such Order, thereby Col. Lee, will send me an Order upon him, I have no right to demand any such payment.

I should have great pleasure in serving our Cousin Capt. Lee; but when Dr Hamilton sent in a Tutor for you, he informed me by Letter, that it was so difficult for him to obtain one, but on high terms, that he could not attempt it again. So would, I think it would neither be prudent nor genteel to ask such another favor of him.

As Mr Macaulay is on the eve of publishing another Vol. I shall delay purchasing the others, 'till that comes out.

I am vexatious to promise for Ld Shelburne, that he will be obliged to you for the present you mention, but great care will be requisite in sending it, that it may escape Pirates. Col. Barré is so worthy, that could any such be purchased, I should gladly pay for it, to present it to him. He has always been our zealous & great friend. He is besides a Man of taste, & will make good use of it.

I have pledged myself to Lady Shelburne, for some Partridges, Red Birds & Mocking Birds; & therefore must intreat you, to procure some for me. A Gentleman, would greatly oblige her, or a pair rather, for She delights in a Menagery. No Lady was ever more amiable & worthy than She is, or deserved more respect & attention.

I do not believe Ld Shelburne, will come in, 'till another general Election. The death of the Lord Mayor Mr Beckford, has deprived him of a Patron & Friend, enfeebled the opposition & irreparably injured the popular cause, However the City is now so staunch that the Court, has given up even the attempt of carrying an election. But until we have a more uncorrupt H— of C— Ld Chatham & Lord Shelburne &c are the only real friends to the rights of the People, will have no influence, tho they should have Offices.

I certainly returned you Dr Fothergill's thanks

No 45

July 12th 1770

as he desird, that the proportion of Brandy [illegible] fine Lad taken away in genuine flavor, & that [illegible] end of the peice were well fermented in a warm [illegible] place, under ground, it would then require no [illegible] Brandy to hinder it from recovering.

Mr Jennys mentiond to me, what you wrote about Ld Shelburne's picture, he will not return from Ireland, in less than two months, by which time, I suppose my Ld Camden's pleasure will be known.

I inclose you, Mr Burke's Pamphlet, in which you will find the present views & situation of the Court, most truly & ably displayd. With respect to us, they are taking the advice of Bernard & other inveterate foes to our rights, for 'tis plain they mean to found some rigorous proceedings: for the Association have disconcerted & enraged them, so that they intend to load their whole force to distress & oppress them. But I trust, the spirit of our Countrymen in general, will totally disappoint their schemes.

I inclose you an Extract given me by Mr Bickerton, which shews with what reason the report of my being the author of that Letter which gave so much offence to the Merchants, originated. If you think it worth the trouble, it might be well to make them contradict it, or to publish it in Rind's Paper, with his contradiction of it, since he printed the Letter & must know I was not the author. I was once so angry at the rashness with which the Merchants have acted against me, as to think of setting the whole transaction of the Address in its full light, which would have shewn their conduct to be without the shadow of excuse. But cooler reflection convinced me, they were unworthy my attention. But as it is not improbable their artifices may have influenced some worthy men to entertain an ill opinion of me; it would be well to shew their charge against me was false, under the authority of the Printer.

Our Br. W. has taken a house on Tower Hill, & I shall live with him. Remember me to our Brothers London & Stafford; from [illegible] indeed of whom I seem never likely to hear.

I hope Aunt Lee & the Children are well, my love attends them & my most earnest wishes for their happiness.

London. July. 12 1770.

Farewell. Arthur Lee

Cont. Lett. (№ 46)

Dear Brother Philadelphia 25th aug.t 1770

I have made much enquiry concerning your runaway thief, & have several good hands looking out, have desired the Jewellers to stop y.e rings if they together, & if he comes to Philadelphia no doubt I shall recover her & send her by first opportunity to Virginia. I have not yet been able to find the sort of stockings you desire, when I do I will send them.

I send you by Capt. Sykes bottom a ream of american papers 50 lb. Chocolate 20 of it at 1/6. & 20 an extraordinary sort at 2/ p.r pound. your Iron Electrical Rod made secundum artem & some Cables for Col R. L. Lee which tho' they may be too late for y.e harvest will be soon enough for y.e next. Mrs. Shippen presents her Love to Mrs. Lee & begs she will take

take charge of ye cotton enclosed in your Box & get wove & striped with ye black silk ~~w^ch~~ wch can be manufactured & card fit for ye purpose of making a sett of curtains. if that is not practicable, she desires it may be converted into as nice ~~a quilt as poss~~ as ye remainder pretty figured ~~figured~~ for petticoats as Mrs Lees genteel taste shall direct. ~~[illegible]~~

'Tis said this way that the virginians have imported as much as ever nor can they make any ~~[illegible]~~ operations will be of any efficacy from y^e nature of their commerce ~~by~~ by number of scotch Factors. I hope your late resolutions will convince to y^e contrary — I am afraid y^e traitorous New yorkers will again enslave us. I enclose ~~[illegible]~~ Junius excellent Letter & a good one from albany to yesterday. = Our Farmer is lately married to Miss Norris

an agreable Lady wch is about 60.000 ℔ & is now one of the richest men in America; has ever been true to y^e cause of Liberty ever since this Letters were well received, I mean he has never exerted himself since which argues — but it is reason to say any thing against ye Farmer. — I love him & his good quality but am not blind to his weaknesses & foibles, I have never quite forgiven his stealing the Liberty long from Dr Lee wch he did very vainly & palpably, twas a small matter, but discovered his readiness for applause; I shall deliver your message when he comes to town. — all this entre nous — Dr Lees conduct is singular and whimsical he is a good Physician & has genius to make a figure in two important characters, the True Gasrick can laugh as well as he can cry but is he not a Zara also? — I sincerely wish him success & every happiness for I love him

(646)

No 417

(No 417.)

We are much disappointed in not seeing you here with your son or sons on your way to Dr Witherspoon, your Sister will be very happy when that time comes & prays it may be very soon. I am persuaded there is not such a school on ye continent — your cousin Henry Lee is in ye college & will be one of ye first fellows in this country — He is more than strict in his morality, has a fine genius & is too diligent — Charles is in ye grammar school & the D^r expects much from his genius & application too. If you will be here by the 24th of September I will escort you to ye commencement at Princeton w^h will be on ye 25th

Tom has heard such romantick accounts of Matilda's accomplishments, that he begs Miss Molly will not insist on his going deep into ye Latin tongue; much will depend on the reading of it's he is perfect master. however he prays Ripley may be given Molly & only two to — — — — —

I am very sorry my request in my last was so disagreeable to you, but I still hope you will grant it. I am sure you will be convinced of the propriety of it when you consider that I am now in a public character, & that my conduct will be observed by many. I am sure you will excuse me when I tell you that I am very sincerely Yours

you will be fortunate enough to meet with one to supply his place, that may be depended on for honesty, industry & Ability. It really gives me concern to think that you who have already had so much trouble with the estate, should be further plagued with so disagreeable a business; for I well know what kind of Men Overseers & managers in general are. A Man of good character that understands making fine tob°. is surely to be preferred, but if no such one is to be met with in y^r neighborhood or on York river; perhaps my bro^r may be able to find one that will do in the Northern Neck, tho I should rather prefer such as is first mentiond if it is not too much trouble to you to get one.

You will be so kind as to transmit home in time an Invoice for the goods, as it will be impossible for me to make any judgement about it, not being furnished with the Number of working negroes all told to me, nor their sex or profession, nor the state of the buildings on the different plantations.

Capt. Walker will wait on you with this as soon as he arrives, if the wind permit him to get on shore

either at Hampton or York I shall be obliged to you to inform him, what number of Hhds my share of this years crop of Tobo will amount to that he may provide a craft accordingly, in case he finds it necessary to send for it, I expect he will give you early notice of his intentions, that if he does not want it, you may embrace the first good opty of shipping it consigned to me. ——

Should you at any time think proper to entrust any business to my care here, you must be sensible that as I have a double tye, to serve you faithfully, no assiduity or attention on my part will be wanting to give you satisfaction.

I shall be glad to hear from you at all times & with our joint good wishes, for yours, your worthy Lady & family's health & happiness I am with real esteem & regard, (Dear Sir

Your mo: Obliged & mo:
Humble Servt. William Lee

5 Hhd
2441 W & W

(N°47)

London Sept. 1770.

My dear Brother, N°135

The present opportunity serves me to say but a few words in answer to yours by Walker, which I received two days since. The conduct of New York, the general intelligence from America & especially from Virginia, have afflicted me with such absolute despair, that I now give up all hope that our Country will escape Slavery. In consequence of this, I have inclosed for your perusal what I intended for the press; but have withheld it under a conviction that all further efforts are useless. Luxury & Corruption I manifestly perceive will bear down liberty & all our virtues before it. The torrent is irresistible. It cannot be opposed. When the virtue of opposition decreases in proportion to the increase of oppression; when we grow [illegible] in speaking as they become more [illegible] in speaking our Constitutional [illegible] that we shall not [illegible] quiescence. If the [illegible] expectations [illegible] among you, will [illegible] promises complied [illegible] augmented, places [illegible] there are the hopes [illegible] will be effectually [illegible]

With respect to this Country, all is over. This the fixed opinion of the coolest & wisest men I know, that nothing [illegible] the flatterers of the [illegible] nothing will move them to a rupture with them.

In this dismal situation, one [illegible] the reflection of Rousseau. La Liberté n'est dans aucune forme de gouvernement, elle est dans le Coeur de l'homme; il la porte par tout avec lui. L'homme vil porte tout la servitude. L'un seroit Esclave a Geneve, l'autre libre a Paris.

Our Brother & Mrs Lee are in good health & settled

(No 47) (Copy enclosed) Sept 10th 1770

on Tower hill. I hope another Voyage, will be more favorable to the Liberty than this has been. It will be somewhat hard, if Strangers & men who hate our Country should draw out profits from it as to have luxuriously while one with such natural interest as our Brother found it a losing trade. This is no unaccountable that I can hardly believe it will ever happen.

For myself I am studying at the Temple, in hopes of finding the Profession I have adopted more honourable & profitable, than that I have abandoned.

If I have seen so much mischief & so little good arise from sending children over here for education, that I cannot recommend it for mine. If they are to be bred to the Law, the groundwork of Logic, Mathematics, the general Laws of Nature & Nations, you can best teach them in your own house. The merely practical part of the Virginia Law, they may learn from living a year or two, with some able practitioner, not at Williamsburg, which is a sink of idleness & vice, with you. After this, when they are arrived at years of some discretion, have attained some idea of the Laws of Virginia & of general Law, two years here will be of more benefit, than twenty there employed. The taking a Degree, being of [illegible] consequence with you, they might be entered [illegible] two years before they [illegible] ever, which will [illegible] them of residing so [illegible] to [illegible] if it should be thought [illegible] Studies, but to alleviate [illegible] possible too that by [illegible] not only to spird them in [illegible] visits their expences.

The rest of your letter I will answer by Mrs Shipton. My love to mrs Lee & [illegible] Children.

Farewell, my dear Sir, may every [illegible] attend you.

Yrs affectionately
Arthur Lee

London
Sept 10th 1770.

Dear Sir London Sept. 11. 1770

Not having any of your Favors lately I have only to return Mr. Lee's and my own grateful thanks to you for your trouble in the division of the Estate between us and Mr. Paradise, wch I understand by my Brothers is Compleated, if it is not too late when this comes to hand I would rather the Powhatan = mill Shd be given up as was proposed by my Brother Richard Henry Lee, if in that case Mr. Paradise would allow me £200. more in the division either in lands or negroes. As I am informed Mr. Wilkinson has some intentions of leaving my Business, if he should I must rely on your friendship to procure the best manager that is to be had and as Mr. Paradises people are to remove this Winter from the quarter on the head of Richneck = mill, I shd suppose a Sufficient number to stock it may be selected out of the most useless of the house Servants, gardners, &c. so as not to unfurnish the the other plantations. — Capt. Walker has brought me — 24 hhds. of Tobo as my share (I suppose) of the last years Crop and being much in want of money you will oblige me exceedingly by forwarding remittances as fast as possible. — I am informed 'tis the opinion of some that I have at least 50 negroes more then are sufficient to work the land to advantage; as I know

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you to be a very able judge I shd be glad of your advice on this point as soon as possible, and if it is so, whether it would not be advisable to dispose of the supernumerary quantity now, when they bear such a good price. —— Mr Lee joins me in respectfull compts to yourself, and Mrs Nicholas and Family.

I am Dr Sir Your William Lee.

(Copy)

Robert Carter Nicholas Esq. Virginia

(1)

Province of Massachusetts Bay 16th October 1770

To the honble. his Majesty's Council for the Province aforesaid

Humbly sheweth Andrew Oliver

That your Petitioner observes in the Vote of Council referred to in his Petition preferred the 5th instant to this honble. Board as a branch of the Legislature that he is charged with representing divers Gentlemen of the Council of the last year in a certain deposition published in England, "as having made such a declaration
" to his Honor the Lieut. Governor respecting a Plan formed by the
" People to remove the Kings Troops and the Commissioners of the
" Customs from the Town of Boston as was likely to be attended with
" the most pernicious consequences to this Province".

Your Petitioner hereupon begs leave to observe to your Honors that he hath represented Mr. Tyler only as having made a declaration of that kind, and divers other Gentlemen as only "adopting what Mr. Tyler had said by referring expressly to it, and thereupon excusing themselves from enlarging".

Before your Petitioner attempts to explain his sd. Deposition he hopes he may without offence be allowed to take notice that he hath not used the words Commissioners of the Customs as is expressed in the Vote of Council, but the Commissioners only: and he the rather takes notice of this variation, because it brings fresh to his mind how cautious he was in framing his Deposition. He perfectly remembers that Mr. Tyler mentioned the Commissioners, but not the Commissioners of the Customs; your Petitioner therefore did not insert those descriptive words in his deposition.

Your Petitioner apprehends that the several positive

Witnesses

Witnesses which he hath produced to prove that Mr. Tyler said the words abovementioned must be considered as undoubted evidence of the fact: but he never once pretended to say, that divers other Gentlemen made such a declaration, otherwise than by adopting what Mr. Tyler had said, i.e, by referring to it and thereupon desiring to be excused from enlarging.

He thinks he has not misunderstood the meaning of the word adopt. The word, as he conceives, in its primary signification intends - a person taking another's child as his own. From hence when one relates a Story or an historical account of facts upon the credit of another without shewing any doubt of the truth of them he is said to adopt the Story or account related by him; and in like manner he may be said to adopt the opinion of another when he expressly refers to it without betraying a doubt about it: he does so in a more especial manner when he refers to such opinion for his own government or the government of others in point of practice. In this sense your Petitioner understood the word adopt: Had he said that divers other Gentlemen confirmed what Mr. Tyler had said, it might have been then alledged, that they were charged with vouching for the truth of facts themselves, whereas the word adopt strictly and literally implies no more than that they supposed the truth of facts on the credit of the relator; nor did your Petitioner ever intend any thing more by it; and that upon supposition of the truth of the facts related, they might found their opinion.

Your Petitioner therefore hopes his Deposition cannot be considered as containing any unjust charge against any of the Gentlemen of the Council who referred to what had been said

by

by another Gentleman as aforesaid.

Nor did your Petitioner ever apprehend that the good people of the Province in general were at all chargeable with forming any unjustifiable Plan. If the Plan said to have been formed to remove the Troops and Commissioners was to have been executed in a legal & constitutional way, they would doubtless be ready to avow it themselves. If it was to have been executed by violence such Plans are usually formed by a few; and if it was formed after the burning of the 5th and before noon of the 6th of March it may well be supposed that there were very few concerned in the forming of it.

Your Petitioner never intended to convey any Idea of the Plans being formed prior to the 6th of March rather than after it: he is confident that he has been precise in setting down the very words used on the occasion without adding any construction of his own.

Your Petitioner will not presume to make any other observations on the depositions of the Gentlemen of the Council who were concerned in this business, save that they are generally negative testimonies, and some of them principally argumentative. The principal matter wherein the testimony of divers of said Gentlemen differs from that of your Petitioner appears to him to be concerning what relates to the Commissioners, with regard to which he apprehends his Deposition is fully supported by the testimony of disinterested Witnesses then present.

Your Petitioner drew up a memorandum of that days proceedings without the privity of any one, merely to assist his memory in future. — When he was afterwards called upon by the Lieut. Governor for his testimony concerning those matters, he had

this

this memorandum or narrative, copied without any alteration. It does not appear to have had any influence on the measures of Government at home, as the proceedings relative to the Troops are not so much as mentioned in the Resolves of the King in Council in July last: nor has he heard of any private Letters from London mentioning the said deposition as like to be attended with any pernicious consequences — He therefore prays that for the reasons herein mentioned and those in his Petition of the 5th instant, this honble. Board will in justice to his Character order the same together with the Depositions he has adduced, to be lodged on the files of this Court, and take such further order for preventing any prejudice to his Character on this occasion as in equity shall seem meet — and your Petitioner shall as in duty bound ever pray &c

Andw. Oliver

October 16th. Read in Council. —

A true copy
Attest. Jno. Cotton D. Secry

Petition of Andrew Oliver to the Council touching certain Charges vs Hutchinson

Oct. 1770

In the House of Representatives Octr 17 1770

The present critical Situation of the publick Affairs now depending in Great Britain, wherein this Province in general and this House in particular are concerned, requiring that some Gentleman of Ability and Integrity should be employed as Agent for this House, to transact such Matters as may be committed to his Care, Therefore,

Voted, That the House will proceed to the Choice of an Agent on Wednesday next at 3 o' Clock. P. M.

Thomas Cushing Spkr.

In the House of Representatives Octr 24th 1770.

Wednesday, 3 o' Clock. P. M.

The House according to Order proceeded to the Choice of an Agent, and upon sorting and counting the Votes it appeared that Dr. Benjamin Franklin was chose by a majority.

It was then moved, and thereupon Resolved, That Dr. Benjamin Franklin be, and hereby is appointed and authorized (on behalf of this House) to appear before his Majesty in Council, in the several Houses of Parliament, and at any other Board whatever in Great Britain, there to plead and defend as the Exigency of the Case, and the Service of the Province may require, for the Space of one Year, agreable to such Directions or Instructions as from Time to Time he may receive from the House, (or from such Committee as may be by them authorized and appointed for that Purpose) entirely relying on his Vigilance and the Exertion of his utmost Endeavors, to support

the

the constitutional Rights of this House, and of the Province, and to guard against, and (as far as in him lies) to obviate whatever may have a Tendency to prejudice the same.

Thomas Cushing Speaker

Dr Franklins
appointment
as Agent to the
House of Represen-
tatives Massachus.
1770

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

vailable, when perhaps some of my friends may be in power.
I can with them my friendship in young & my advocation may
and should be founded alone for having pretty & manly the
favorable sentiments rather than requiring the loss of favor
by unfounded & immature application. Those who work
by will must by the intercession of Money must wait
the favorable prospect of occasion. In the mean time be
assured my dear BS that nothing in life would give
me more pleasure than to aid in placing you in
that state of independence which no man on earth
deserves more.

Adieu. yrs

London
Sept 20th 1810

122

+ Lee
1770

Value of Exports from 5 Jan. 1769 to 5 Jan. 1770 Imports from S. of Europe &c.

N. Hampshire	£ 46622	49181
Massachus.	312,739	177,295
R. Island	84318	59600
Connect.	87,483	54261
N York	246,522	113,045
Jerseis	2531	59600
Pensylvania	453,418	194,841
Maryland	350,097	42,280
Virginia	728,928	93915
N. Carolina	681,17	12616
S. Carolina	440,270	196,013
Georgia	6040	23394

(2)

Imp. value of Exports from America to

Britain	Ireland	South of Europe	Africa	Brit. & foreign W. Indies	
£ 587,487	78674	645,009	25337	758,661	Total 3,0

Capts. & Lieuts. of the U. S.

Memd. The name of the french Captain who commanded the [redacted] la Fayette with pebbles & is supposed to have betrayed her is Galleton

To the Right Honble the Lords
Commissioners (Ino) of Trade & Plantations
The Petition of Thos Lee Esqr
for certain Inhabitants of great Britain
Virginia & Maryland

Humbly sheweth

That your Petitioner presented to this hon.
B.d a Petition in behalf of sundry Inhabt.
of great B. Virginia & Maryland for
a Grant of Lands on the back of this
Colony & Dominion of Virginia, between the
42d. degrees north Latitude

That y.r Petitioners therein prayd for
grant on the terms of paying quit Rent
were the only terms then known or
in America were granted.

But your Petitioner understanding that there
is a new mode of making such grants now
under the contemplation of this hon.r B.d
in consequence of two Petitions for making an
entire purchase from the Crown of those
Lands.

Your Petitioner therefore, in behalf of those Petitioners
this hon.r Board, that in consideration of their
having first shewn their zeal for promoting
his Majestys service & the settling those Land
the Tract of Land specify'd in their Petition
may be granted to any other person or persons
not be granted, till they are apprized of the
proposal which his Majesty will be graci
to them for their Rt Grant.

And y.r Petitioners as in duty
bound shall ever pray

Tho.s Lee Agt

Mr Pownall Re 24th

Tho.s Lee

Memorial of Ohio Company to
the Lords of Trade & Plantations
1767-70.

(No 7)

1770.

To the Right Honourable the Lords of the Committee of Council.

The humble Memorial of Denny's De Berdt Esq.r Agent for the House of Assembly of the Massachusets Bay.

Sheweth

That your Memorialist having received notice to all your Lordships in order to support the several Allegations, which House of Representatives in the Province of the Massachusets Bay h thought proper to present to His Majesty in complaint of their Gov.r Fr.s Barnard; and finding himself unable to proceed w with any certainty or effect. he thinks it his duty to lay before you Lordships his reasons why on this day he entirely declines the alle

Your Memorialist means not to recapitulate those arguments which in his late Petition to your Lordships praying for time, he so fully set forth. Already your Lordships have been informed that the Prorogatio which so closely followed the Resolutions of the House, prevented ~~the regular~~ ~~of their continuance the support Evidence in support of those~~ concern~~ing~~ your Memorialist is obliged to observe that he has be since informed by a Letter from the Speaker of the Assembly, that a Seco Prorogation to the 14.th of March, has now completed the impossibility of his receiving in due time any further Instructions from his Constituents

In this situation, the House of Assembly, by repeated Prorogations ~~repeatedly~~ denied the opportunity of making good their Allegatio Your Memorialist finds himself, not only called upon to produce this Evidence in their Support, but is expressly charged by Gov.r Bernard in his answer to the Representations made against him with doing he could to prevent the Hearing, under a pretence of waiting for Pa

50. De Berdt, Dennis. 1770. A draft of memorial

To this Charge Your Memorialist thus replies, He assures Your Lordships with a confidence arising from truth, that he has taken every to prepare himself to obey Your Lordships Order for the Hearing upon the day; that he heartily wishes he could have been able to have effected it, at the same time he thinks it a duty owing to his Constituents to declare that however desirous he might have been to have obeyed Your Lordships Order, yet he should have thought he had betrayed their ~~Interests~~ Privileges violated ~~that~~ Trust reposed in him, if he had attempted to have supported their Petition without the assistance of that Evidence on which it was found

A further reason which induces Your Memorialist to decline entering upon the Allegations, arises from the Answers of Fr. Francis Bernard. Your Lordships will therein perceive, new & positive Charges against the Speaker & the House of Assembly, accusing them, among other things, with unfair practices in denying him a Copy of their Petition to their Sovereign, till three days before his departure from Boston, and of originating in ~~meeting~~ the very Petition itself.

To these Charges, if it to be expected Your Memorialist, unprepared can ~~possibly~~ answer; or can Your Lordships ~~properly~~ decide upon them, while the Assembly against whom they are made, ~~will~~ be at the very Hour of decision unacquainted with the accusations

That Gov. Bernard should so warmly press for an immediate Hearing, Your Memorialist is not surprized, He well knows that ~~a fortnight day should~~ the Assembly ~~before~~ been permitted to Meet, an opportunity ~~would then have been given to~~ a much injured People ~~would be~~ ~~able to~~ ~~by~~ ~~of~~ ample testimony in support of those Articles which their unanimous Voice have alledged as matter of Complaint against him.

But whether Your Lordships, Delegated by His Majesty to consider & report to him, Your Opinion of the Petition now depending; will in Your Justice on Wisdom immediately decide upon it, ~~&~~ the Petition unheard, & from an unfortunate necessity, at present incapable of making the proper Proofs, is a matter Your Memorialist submits to Your Lordships serious Consideration. Humbly presuming to intimate to Your Lordships, that the present Cause involves in it the Happiness of many Thousands of His Majesty's faithfull Subjects, whose misfortune it has yet been, to find themselves misrepresented and condemned unheard.

Your Memorialist will not trouble Your Lordships with enumerating many other reasons, why he cannot; why in Justice to those ~~for~~ whom he is Concerned, he ought not to proceed in support of their Petition this day.; ~~Sufficient for the purpose~~ Sufficient he humbly apprehends, he has already laid before Your Lordships.

With a consciousness therefore of having faithfully discharged his
in every stage of this important business; Your Memorialists entirely
submits to Your Lordships Judgement the Cause of a whole Province;
declining, as he thinks he is in Duty bound, to enter upon those Allegation
in support of which His Constituents have hitherto been denied the
opportunity of transmitting that Evidence, on which they were founded

We feel a just indignation at the groundless aspersions and cruel calumnies which have been & are daily uttered against our County men, in Assemblies where they cannot be present & where their Agents are not permitted to be heard.

We cannot forget our attachment to the Union of the Colonies upon the principles of the revolution, we are not rebellious - they are not rebels. We can inculcate the reverence for the Constitution & determination to defend it, ~~[illegible]~~ we are not rebellious - they are not Rebels. We cherish the affection of those Rights which God & Nature gave us, we are not rebellious - they are not Rebels.

The love of our Country is their unalienable birthright & they will shew their gratitude to the present that gave it, by preserving it, at every Hazard, Inviolable, pure & perfect.

To be used as a
Specimen of his Letters
Among Americans—
in the Chapel

— these [illegible] as many enemies as there are
advocates for arbitrary power throughout the
country — to have secured a very selfish unwise
devotion to the public cause — did these deserve
such a return. [illegible] that to vindicate
the province from misrepresentation & suspicion
was one strong motive that induced me to
give to the public those proceedings for which
I have been censured with so much severity
& wrongfully. Then I have not deserved his
censure. I had known the mischievous effect
of that affidavit have it not been for the plague
a summary of those proceedings before the public
I should [illegible] the iniquity of those who abetted the tyran-
nical measures of Ld Hillsborough & wished to expel so
foul an aspersion [illegible] the council & the people. It was
impossible for me to expect such a return. I have ever
made the good of the province the only measure of truth
the only guide of my pen. When many have almost to-
tally deserted her cause, I have not deserted it. Nor
will I ever. I will maintain it without respect per-
sons, without fear of consequences. While I have a tongue
to act or a tongue to speak, it shall be religion in
me to resist every attempt to injure the province
of Massachusetts Bay or to establish arbitrary power
over America. The wicked abettors of despotism
shall feel at last the lash of honest indignation
& I shall meet the malignity of my conduct may draw
upon me, in the firmness of a Christian duty in re-
pairing [illegible] & leave the issue to the will of
God. & the People shall all know & feel those who
do not betray them.

(o) It is true that in the fact relative to the removal of
the former prosecution he is supported by the Oaths of
four more [illegible] but it is to be observed
that [illegible] always regarded the testimony of [illegible]
[illegible] that any member should assert that it is true to
[illegible] & that [illegible] other depositions in affirmation
[illegible] must therefore have been a false one
[illegible] & [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible] Committee [illegible] spend to [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
they [illegible] [illegible] be false, injurious. Indeed the
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] unfounded & an absolute perjury. Shou
it is considered, that several members swear that
when the proof mentioned Mr. Cooper's [illegible] the
Council [illegible] [illegible] in no danger, &
[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [

to the highest pitch of resentment & dispair. The measure
now full — one drop more will make the waters of bitterness
overflow, to the destruction of the most valuable commerce
this country & the irreperable injury of the whole dominion
The people of Massachusetts bay, my Lord, have asked humbly &
waited patiently, for justice against Mr Hutchinson & Mr Oliver
that a tax was artfully thrown in to irritate & inflame them to
lence, was not their fault — infamous, inimical, & odious as
the Governors have rendered themselves, they have been suf
fered to sleep in security. A confidence in his Majesty's ju
tice, a hope that the eyes of two ministers would be at last
opened, have suspended their resentments. In one opera
my Lord, this is the last effort of expectation & endurance
I have not yet heard a denial or refutation of the letters on which
the petition is founded; but it has been said, that the Letters
cannot be admitted as evidence unless the manner in
which they were obtained be declared. This rule of evidence
is of the first impression, & so rational as well as new. We
are told at least to be told in what book of evidence it is to
be found; in what court, in what case it was ever argued
or admitted. The North Britons have kindly undertaken
Reprints & carried our books of per the press it may be
found, in some future edition of our law-books & of
new modelling our law, has been long the favourite
object of our smiling friends from that quarter. The
Governor Hutchinson has acknowledged in his answer to
an Address from Boston, that some of the letters bear his
signature. They stand therefore as matter of record, the evidence
which cannot be effected by the manner in which they were
obtained: not that I have heard it even hinted by any
body person, that they were procured by any undue
It seems therefore, that the objection is not, that
they are unfairly obtained; but that idle, perhaps impertinent
curiosity, is not gratified by knowing how they were
procured. — When a noble Lord, for so his patent obliges me

to call him, produced — the Essay on Woman — in the house of lords, was an enquiry made into the manner of procuring it? On the contrary, tho it was seen proved that the mode of obtaining it, was in violation of all honesty & good faith, did not both houses of Parliament proceed to the severest censure the Court of King's bench to the heaviest judgment, against the ostensible author, upon the evidence of that paper so flagitiously obtained? And are we now to be told — that the malfactions of Mr. Hutchinson & Mr. Oliver shall escape punishment upon this pretence? But I have dwelt too long upon an objection utterly contemptable in itself, but for the high & dangerous tendency of it, would not merit a moments consideration. —— My Lord, the single question is — whether men who have rendered themselves universally obnoxious to the people, shall be continued in authority over them? To determine in the affirmative would be to set the sentiments of the People at defiance. Is there any man so wicked as to wish or so weak as to expect — that a government conducted on such principles, would be secure or lasting? The folly of Government may be sometimes forgiven, its injustice, never. But when folly & injustice unite, it must be odious, weak & contemptable. A little time will shew, my Lord, — that government in the hands of obnoxious men, is too arbitrary too inconsistent with the genius of the people to be long endured. No reasoning can reconcile — no force can subdue them to it. It is justice only that can ensure submission — for, as Judge Blackstone observes, — "It is found by experience, that whenever the unconstitutional oppressions, even of the sovereign power, advance with gigantic strides, & threaten desolation to a State, mankind will be reasoned out of the feeling of humanity, nor will scrupulous adherence to those political maxims which were originally established to preserve it."

My Lord, an attempt to establish government in America by military force, must be ultimately fatal to this Country. It may commence in folly & injustice — it will end in — distress & humiliation.

(No II)

1770 (25)

Resolved That the Resolutions entered into by their
Colony the 22d of June 1770 be strictly adhered to.

Resolved 1st That as the people of America have
the sole exclusive right of taxing themselves in a
legislative capacity, so the American Associators
when a legal necessary and prudent means of securing
that valuable right. That they have a strong tendency
to introduce general frugality, economy and
to encourage the manufactures so conducive to the happiness of
the Colonies

Resolved 2d That at any future time when
the question for dissolving
the Association shall be
out of the hundred Che
mbers of the Castle
in this Colony.

Resolved That Mr Moderator be desired to
transmit
the proceedings in
this meeting to
the several Colonies

Resolved That Mr Moderator be desired to
write
to the several Committees
proceedings in that behalf and that they transmit to
him the names of their respective Committee men and that
on their failure so to do in a reasonable time that
Mr Moderator appoint other Gentlemen
to the room of those so neglecting.

Resolved That the Resolves of this Meeting
be published in the Virginia Gazette and transmitted
to the several Colonies

In place of the 3d Resolve Put

And in order to that the
general Union may be more fully and firmly

collected upon a point of so great importance to the
=ance of this Association Resolved by the Delegates
twenty Associators, & whom must be persons of
Landed property in the Colony, shall, by letter to the
Moderator desire a General Meeting of the Asso
=ciators, and that the Moderator having in the Orig
=inal gave due notice of the time and place by him
so appointed for the said General meeting - The persons
duly chosen, or that may hereafter be chosen
from time to time supplying the vacancies, in the several
Counties, shall, in each County
Counties, shall as early as
possibly, call a meeting
of all the Associators in their
respective Counties for the
purpose of choosing two
Deputies to attend the
General Meeting
And it is hereby declared that
majority of those
Deputies so chosen shall be
necessary to constitute such
Deputies to attend said G. Meeting

1777

Resolves Enemies
Colonial Association

Re[solved] that the Association entered into by this Colony the 22^{d}. of June 1770 be strictly adhered to. Resolved 1st That as the people of America have the sole exclusive right of [illegible] themselves in a legislative capacity, so the American Associations were a legal, necessary, and prudent means of securing that valuable right: That they have a strong tendency to introduce general frugality and economy so conducive to the happiness and true interest of the Colonies.

Resolved 3dly [sic] That at any future time when the question for dissolving the Association shall be [torn] out of the hundred [illegible] present, 75 of that number at the least, be per[sons] of landed property in this Colony.

Re[solved] [torn] M^{r}. Moderator be pleased to [torn, illegible, torn] who have been hitherto neglected to inf[orm][torn] their proceedings in that business that they forthwith transmit to him the names of their respective Committee Men And that on their failure so to do in a reasonable time that M^{r}. Moderator appoint other Gentlemen for the purpose aforesaid in the room of those so neglecting.

Resolved 5^{thly} that it is the opinion and the most sound recommendation of this Meeting to the good people of this Colony to avoid all commercial intercourse whatever with those persons who shall by any means break the Association.

Resolved 6^{thly} that the proceedings of this Meeting be published in the Virg^{a} Gazette and transmitted to the several Colonies.

In place of the 3^{d}. Resolve Put

And in order that the general opinion may be more fully and fairly collected on a point of so great importance as [torn] [con]tinuance of the Association Resolved 3dly that when twenty Associators, 10 of whom must be persons of landed property in this Colony, shall by letter to M^{r}. Moderator desire a General Meeting of the Association, that M^{r}. Moderator having in the Virg^{a} Gazette given due notice of the time and place by [torn] for the said General meeting - The persons already chosen, or that hereafter may be chosen Committee Men for inspecting the Importation into the several Counties as a majority of such Committee Men in each County shall, as early as possible, call a meeting of all the Association in their

[respective] Counties for the purpose of choosing two Deputies to attend and [illegible], in the General Meeting and it is hereby declared that a Majority of at least [illegible] Deputies so chosen shall be necessary to constitute [torn] such G. Meeting.

London Jan.ʸ 31.ˢᵗ 1771

Sir,

I should have long since acknowledged the receipt of your very obliging letter of last June, if I had been in England; But I was at the time of it's arrival, in a remote part of Europe, I now seize this as the first opportunity which presents itself since my return, to pay my respects to you.

I see you lament, with all the feelings of true Patriotism, that the Firmness of America has at last given way to the combined arts of ministerial & mercantile wickedness; It was very difficult to resist the former, I upon my word I think it fair to call the latter rather mercantile weakness than wickedness —— Some of the most considerable men throughout your Continent are employ'd in active commerce, They stood long in defence of the rights of their fellow Subjects, But the ministers

have had sagacity enough to see that (besides the Jealousy of each other) the expence of the Contest lay too heavy upon that Body of men, to continue much longer. However it must be confess'd upon the whole, that America has shewn in the late struggle, a strong love of liberty, a spirited resentment, & most uncommon Abilitys.

I am exceedingly obliged to you, for your two presents, Their intrinsic worth is rare, & the manner of sending them very flattering: It must give me great pleasure to find that my poor services are still remembered in America, & that I hold a place in the esteem of so respectable a man as Mr. Lee.

I have the Honour to be
with great regard & consideration
Sr.
Your most obedient & most
humble Servant

Jno. Paul

(#)

Isaac Barre

Letter Jany. 1. 1771

Public. Dr. A. Lee

He who so eloquently de-
fended the character
of the Colonies in the House
of Commons —

Robert Carter Nicholas Esqr.

Dear Sir, London March 26th. 1771.

I wrote you the 25th. Ulto. by the Randolph Capt. Rob: Walker, which I hope you will receive safe & to which be pleased to refer.

I have now sent by Mr. Norton's ship the Lyon for York river, to Mr. C. Wilkinson the annual goods for my estate & tho' by the bills of loading they are to be deliver'd at Green spring, yet if Mr. C. W. can without any great inconvenience take them from the Capitol landing I dare say the Capt. will very readily deliver them there, as it will be less expence to him than to send them round to James River. Indeed three of the packages are very heavy which may make them troublesome to cart so far. I know there are frequent accidental opportunities of shipping Tob°. on Liberty from James & York rivers, so that if my ship the Liberty shd. not want my half of the Tob°. made on the estate last year, I am in hopes you will find no difficulty in sending it to one in good time upon easier terms, than I know the regular London ships can afford to take it in at. —

From knowing your connections here with a

Gentleman

whom I really think as worthy & honest as any in the trade, I cannot expect any of your consignments; but if it shd. happen in your way, I shall esteem your recommendation of me, a very considerable addition to the many obligations you have already conferd upon me. Mrs Lee begs you & Lady's acceptance of her return & regard & I hope you believe me to be

Dear Sir Your real Friend
& most Obliged Hble Servt
William Lee



Wm. Lee, 1771 ALS.

To

Robert Carter Nicholas Esqr.
Treasurer of Virginia
at
Williamsburg

By favor of
Capt. Goosely

8

The Members of the Bill of Rights, Soc. of
with the deepest respect & gratitude for the manly
support you have given to the Law of the Land &
the liberties of the Nation, &, committing a Messenger
of the House of Commons, who had assaulted a
Citizen of London; have deputed me to convey
to you, their thanks & approbation of your conduct.

When prerogative is at variance with the laws
of the Land, & the rights of the people; no honest
man can hesitate, to determine against it. Our Ancestors laid it down as a
maxim in the common Law, that he who
does not favor Liberty, is an enemy to it. Had
there been therefore a doubt only, of the constitu-
tional & legal tendency of the proceedings of
the Speaker, that doubt ought to have given way to
opposition. The process which deprives a man of
his liberty, ought to be clear and
unquestionable. But this was plainly an arbitrary pro-
ceeding, subversive of the general liberty of the subject,
declared in Magna Carta & other venerable Statutes,
as well as
to the chartered rights of the City of London confirmed
by Act of Parliament. most solemnly
when you withheld the Seal
You therefore, Gentlemen, acted
with a spirit & integrity becoming the first Magis-
trates of this great City, which has ever distinguished
itself in patronizing Liberty. above your predecessors
Wherefore

We have been told, that usage will gratify this

Libertate quam non dedit nemo, nisi eadelis judicandus tortor
de Lata

exercise of privilege. But it is a maxim of the common Law, the groundwork of our Constitution, that usage against reason is an usurpation.(a) Now it is manifestly against reason, that the people should be subject to be deprived of their liberty, at the arbitrary & capricious will of an Assembly of their own creation. And that creation too, for the very purpose of preserving liberty. The principles of the Law of England, are always favorable to the personal liberty of the subject.(b) If the powers of the house of Commons, are not exactly defined by Law, still they must be limited by the principles of it, & by the reason of the case in which they are exercised. To shut up from the people, who have an essential & unalienable right to enquire into the conduct of their Representatives, all knowlege of their proceedings; is against reason, a flagrant violation of right, & stamps an alarming suspicion on those whose actions are thus carefully covered with darkness. A House of Commons privileged against the people, to trample on the Law; is a manifest & monstrous absurdity They were vested with privileges to defend them in the

(a) Consuetudo contra rationem, potius usurpatio quam consuetudo appellare debet. Lord Coke.

(b) Anglia jura, in omnia casu, libertate dant favorem. Fortescu

due exercise of their functions, from the crown & its ministers. And we yet hope, that the awakened virtue of the people, to see a house of Commons who will direct the power trusted with them by the community, not against public Liberty, but to a severe & exemplary enquiry by whose advice it has happened, that the present reign, considering its duration and circumstances, has been arbitrary and unconstitutional, beyond the worst example of former times. It is then that the alarms of the people will be composed, their indignation will subside & their confidence in their Representatives in government, will be restored. They never can be supposed to have chosen Deputies to be tyrants; that is to have an arbitrary & unexaminable power over themselves. They acknowledge no absolute power over them but the Law, & to that their Representatives are equally subject.

It is in support of this, that you Gentlemen now suffer; & next to vindicating the violated Laws, we deem it your greatest happiness & honor to suffer nobly in their defence. The fabric of

the fabric of english liberty, has been cemented by the blood of Englishmen; & should it be necessary, we trust there is yet patriotism enough, to furnish blood for its reparation.

To the Right Honble the Lord Mayor &c

Mr Alderman Oliver

(No 49) (Copy left out last Pack) June 11th 1771

(No 123)

My Dear

I have received

with great pleasure to hear the day, by your Letter to our Brother Williams, that you & yours were well. Our political Body here is also much disordered as ever. Mr Walker has carried the City against the Court, & the powerful party of his own pretended friends, that deserted & opposed him. The City has voted another Remonstrance to the King; which will soon be carried up to him. The Bill of Rights, which Hardy still, has determined to recommend to the people as a Set of Instructions for their Representatives at the next general Election. I am named on a Special Committee for that purpose, shall endeavour to include the redress of American Grievances.

In a former Letter, I gave you my opinion of the manner of educating Lewis well; if you can chuse to train him to the Law, which seems to be both the most lucrative & honorable Profession we have, I wish you would write me your intentions relative to him. By the time he is

would be fit for the Temple, I think [illegible] assist him
in his studies. The Academy we [illegible] the youngsters
has not answered so well as I hoped it would; but they
seem to have so little genius, that I believe it will
be to no purpose to send them [illegible]

It is rumoured here, & I think with great
probability, that Mr. T. A—ds, is in expectation of
being appointed A—l by the next Assembly. I un-
derstand the Speaker & Attorney mean to push again
for Mr. M—. In that case the James River
interest will be divided, & the northern-neck,
if tolerably united, will carry the question. With
some management I should imagine M— might
be brought to espouse my interest & propose me
do not think it necessary to write him on that sub-
ject; since if the sincerity of the friendship he pro-
fesses for me, will not lead him to do it unsol-
licited, it can hardly be expected on any terms.
I will leave it therefore to your judgment to apply
to him or not, as the occasion may direct. If they
should determine to have any Agent, I am sure I
should serve them with more zeal & fidelity
than the latter candidate, & in the power of the

former th[illegible] ee would be ab[illegible] degraded.
His abilit[illegible] temptable, & his principles must
to be susp[illegible]ch K— ll will I conceive be h
friend, & th[illegible] great Conjurer more is to be ap-
prehended f[illegible] the Speaker's acts. I am told M—'s
letter on his dismission was very insolent; if it
has not been laid before the House the Speaker
inclines to withhold it, some advantage might be
gained by moving for it, previous to the election.
If self-interest were perfectly silent, it would give me
pain to see the Colony in either of their hands; doubting,
as I do, the zeal of the one, & the integrity of the other.
The reluctant removal of Ld Dunmore will
give you time to consider & perhaps this
business. I hope Col. Washington would be very glad
to act for us. I know none would be the properer person to
make interest for me, & perhaps to propose me;
as these are what you could not with propriety
do, & it may be, that no one below will undertake
it. I have therefore inclosed a letter to Col. W. which
I beg you will use your own judgment entirely
in suppressing or delivering.

July. 10th. The City Remonstrance has prevented yesterday's meeting
a refusal as before. The spirits of the common people are in-
dustriously suppressed by all parties, but those of Ld Shelburne
& Mr Wilkes. It is to be feared they will sink so entirely
that nothing but some great calamity will rouse them.

(No 49)

June 11th 1771

[illegible] en[illegible]
that I am afraid [illegible] be employ
in the same execution I formerly
present, Wilkes's party have the pu
The [illegible] selfish views of the
ric the [illegible] of the opposition. The Electo
Hab it is doubtful with me, whether the independen
peaking Nuns [illegible] possibly be proved.
Wilkes Bill nothing but an Angelo arm can save
us from the chains which the Court is unquestionably
forging.

I have lately experienced the following purga-
tive to be of a most mild & efficacious operation; in
bilious fevers.

Jal polychrest 3ij
Rhabarb 3ij
Aq. Menth. pip. 3ij. Taken in Wine Whey
Table Water or any other agreable Vehicle, going
to bed, it operates once the next morning.

My Love to all with you

Farewell

R. Lee

June 11th 1771.

[illegible]
Mr Lee
[illegible]
1771

Province of the Massachusetts Bay, June 25 1771.

(7)

Sir,

At the present Session of the General Court, Application has been made to the Court by some of the Grantees of Townships to the eastward of Penobscot River, praying that further Time may be allowed them to procure the King's Approbation of the Grants that have been made to them. The General Court have divers Times already lengthened out the Time for that Purpose, and the two Houses think it reasonable that still further Time should be allowed them: but the Governor's Speech at the opening of the present Session has induced the two Houses to postpone that allowance and render the Grantees a more essential Service by writing to you on the Subject of their Grants.

In March 1762 after repeated Petitions for that Purpose, the General Court granted Twelve Townships of the Contents of Six Miles square to be laid out on and to the Eastward of Penobscot River, all of them contiguous; the Grantees to return to the said Court for further Confirmation a Plan of the same (taken by a Surveyor and Chainmen on Oath) by the last of July then next following: to hold to them, their Heirs and Assigns as Tenants in Common, subject to certain Reservations, Provisos and Conditions in the Grants mentioned. And afterwards viz in February 1763. the Governor, Council, and House of Representatives executed under the Province Seal to the Grantees Deeds of the said Townships, wherein among other Things it is provided that these Grants shall be of no Force or Effect until his Majesty, his Heirs or Successors shall signify his or their Approbation of them. Now altho' according to this Proviso the Grantees could not acquire

any

any Right in the granted Premises without such Approbation, yet from an Apprehension that their Settling the said Townships without Delay would recommend them to the Favor of his Majesty, and facilitate the obtaining his royal Approbation, they immediately proceeded to settle them accordingly; and it was not only with the Knowledge of the then Governor, Mr. Bernard that they did so, but they were encouraged thereto by his Example who as soon as might be after the Grant of the Island of Mount Desart, made to him by the General Court, February 1762, under the same Proviso of obtaining the King's Approbation, laid out Lands for a Settlement, built Mills &c, and thereby incurred a great Expence which he has since urged, and successfully urged as a Reason for obtaining that Approbation.

These Circumstances it is apprehended will serve to place the Grantees in a favorable Light with his Majesty, especially if it be further considered, that they have most of them laid out their whole Substance on those Lands, and been clearing and improving them for divers years past with great Labor, whereby from a State of Nature they are coming to be a well inhabited, and valuable Part of his Majesty's Dominions: from which should the Grantees be removed, the Removal would operate, not only to the diminishing the Value of that Territory, but to the utter Ruin of a very great Number of his Majesty's Subjects.—

The principal Reasons inducing the General Court to grant those Townships were, to retain within the Province some Part of such Inhabitants, as after the Reduction of Canada, appear to have a Disposition for migrating: also, by taking effectual Possession of that Country, during the War, to drive the Indian Enemy to a greater Distance, and thereby better secure our Eastern Settlements against their future Depredations. To secure these Ends the General Court took Care to annex certain Conditions to the said Grants; some of which were, that the Grantees shall within Six Years after they shall have obtained his Majesty's

approbation

Province of the Massachusetts Bay June 29th 1771.

Sir,

Your Letter of the 5th of Febr last has been laid before the House, the Contents are important, and claim our fixed Attention. We cannot think the Doctrine of the Right of Parliament to tax us is given up while an Act remains in Force for that Purpose, and is daily put in Execution, and the longer it remains the more Danger there is of the People's becoming so accustomed to arbitrary and unconstitutional Taxes, as to pay them without Discontent, and then as you justly observe no Minister will ever think of taking them off, but will rather be encouraged to add others: If ever the Provincial Assemblies should be voluntarily silent on the Parliaments taking upon themselves a Power thus to violate their Constitutional and Charter Rights, it might hereafter be considered as an Approbation of it, or at least a tacit Consent that such a Power should be exercised at any future Time. It is therefore our Duty to declare our Rights, and our determinate Resolution at all Events to maintain them.

Supplies

The Time we know will come when they must be acknowledged, established and secured to us and our Posterity — We severely feel the Effects not of a Revenue raised, but a Tribute extorted without our free Consent, or Controul; Pensioners and Placemen are daily multiplying, a Fleet and a Standing Army posted in North America, for no other apparent or real Purpose than to protect new by-acts Collection of the Tribute, for which they are to be maintained, and many of them in Pomp and Pride, to triumph over, and insult an injured People, and suppress if possible, even their Murmurs — and there is Reason to expect that the continual Increase of the Number will lead to proportionable Increase of a Tribute to support them. What will be the Consequence? either on the one Hand an abject Slavery in the People, which is ever to be deprecated, or a determined Resolution to openly assert and maintain their Rights and Liberties and Privileges. The Effect of such Resolution may be for some Time retarded by flattering Hopes and Prospects; and while it is the Duty of all Persons of Influence here unitedly to endeavor to inculcate the Sentiments of Moderation, it will be in

our

our Opinion equally the Wisdom of British Administration, to consider the Danger of forcing a free People by oppressive Measures into a State of Desperation. We have Reason to believe that the American Colonies, however they may have disagreed among themselves in one Mode of Opposition to arbitrary Measures, are still united in the main Principles of constitutional and natural Liberty; and that they will not give up one single Point in Contest of any Importance, tho' they take no violent Measures to obtain them — The taxing their Property without their Consent, and thus appropriating it to the Purposes of their Slavery and Destruction, are justly considered as contrary to, and subversive of their original social Compact, and their Intention in uniting under it. They cannot therefore readily think themselves obliged to renounce those Forms of Government to which alone, for the Advantages implying or resulting, they were willing to submit. We are sensible, as you observe, that the Designs of our Enemies in England, as well as those who reside here, is to render us odious as well as contemptible, and to prevent all Concern for us in the Friends of Liberty in England; and perhaps to detach our Sister Colonies from us, and prevent their Aid and Influence in our Behalf, when the Projects of oppressing us further, and depriving us of our Rights by various violent Measures should be carried into Execution. In this however we flatter ourselves they have failed: But should all the other Colonies become weary of their Liberties, after the Example of the Hebrews, this Province, we trust, will never submit to the Authority of an absolute Government.

We are now led to take Notice of another fatal Consequence which we are under strong Apprehensions will follow from these Parliamentary Revenue Laws; and that is making Governors of the Colonies and other Officers independent of the People for their Support. You tell us there is no Doubt of such Intentions, and that it will be persisted in if the American Revenue is found sufficient. We are the more inclined to believe it, not only because the Governor of the Province of New York has openly declared it, with regard to himself, to the Assembly there, but also because the present Governor of this Province has repeatedly refused to accept of the usual Grants for his Support, tho' he has not been so explicit as to assign a Reason for it. The Charter of this Province recognizes the natural Right of all Men to dispose of their own Property; and the Governor here, like all other

Governors

Governors, Kings & Potentates, is to be supported by the free Grants of the Representatives of the People: Every one sees the Necessity of this to preserve the Ballance of Power and the Freedom of any State. A Power without a Check is subversive of all Freedom: If therefore the Governor, who is appointed by the Crown, shall be totally independent of the free Grants of the People for his Support, where is the Check upon his Power? He becomes absolute, and may act as he pleases: He may make use of his Power, not for the Good of those who are under it, but for his own private seperate advantage, or any other Purpose to which he may be inclined or instructed by him upon whom alone he depends. Such an Independency threatens the very Being of a free Constitution, and if it takes Effect will produce and firmly establish a Tyranny upon its Ruin. The Act of Parliament of the 7th. Geo. 3. intitled an Act for granting certain Duties in the Colonies &c. declares that it is expedient that a Revenue should be raised in his Majesty's Dominions in America, for making more certain and adequate Provision for defreying the Charge of the Administration of Justice, and the Support of the Civil Government in such Provinces where it shall be found necessary, and towards further defreying the Expences of defending, protecting and securing the said Dominions — These are the very Purposes for which this Government by the Charter is empowered to grant Taxes — So that by the Act aforementioned the Charter is in Effect made void.

Agreable to the Design of that Act, the Governor it seems is first to be made independent, and in Pursuance of the Plan of Despotism, the Judges of the Land and all other important civil Officers successively next follows an independent military Power to compleat the Ruin of our civil Liberties — Let us then consider the Power the Governor already has, and his Majesty's Representative on all our Acts, and judge whether the Purposes of Tyranny will not be amply answered — Can it be expected that any Law will pass here, but such as will promote the favorite Design, and the Laws already made, as they will be executed by Officers altogether dependent on the Crown, will undoubtedly be perverted to the worst Purposes — The Governor of the Province and the principal Fortress in it are probably already thus supported — These are the first Fruits of the System: If the rest should follow, it would be only in a greater Degree a Violation of our essential natural Rights. To what Purpose then will it be to preserve the old Forms, without the Substance — In such a State and with such Prospects, can Britain expect any thing but a gloomy Discontent in the Colonists — Let our Fellow Subjects then recollect what

what

would have been their Fate long ago, if their Ancestors had submitted to the unreasonable and uncharitable Usurpations, Exactions, and Impositions of the See of Rome in the Reign of Henry the Eighth — Soon would they have sunk into a State of abject Slavery to that haughty Power which exalteth it self above all that is called God: but they had the true Spirit of Liberty, and by exerting it they saved themselves and their Posterity — The Act of Parliament passed in the 25th of that Reign is so much to our present Purpose, that we cannot help transcribing a Part of it, and refer you to the Statute at large — In the Preamble it is declared that the Realm of England hath been, and is free from Subjection to any Man's Laws but only to such as have been devised, made and ordained within the Realm for the Wealth of the same; and further — "It standeth therefore with natural Equity and good Reason, that in every such Law humane, made within this Realm or induced into this Realm by the said Sufferance, Consent and Customs, your Royal Majesty, and your Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons representing the whole State of your Realm in this your Majesty's high Court of Parliament, hath full Power and Authority, not only to dispence but also to authorize some elect Person or Persons to dispense with those and all other humane Laws of this your Realm, and with every one of them as the Quality of the Persons and Matter may require. And also the said Laws and every one of them to abrogate, annul, amplify or diminish, as it shall seem to your Majesty, and the Nobles and Commons of your Realm present in your Parliament meet and convenient for the Wealth of your Realm — And because that it is now in these Days present seen that the State, Dignity, Superiority, Reputation and Authority of the said imperial Crown of this Realm by the long Sufferance of the said unreasonable and uncharitable usurpations and Exactions — is much and sore decayed, and the People of this Realm thereby impoverished.

— It is then enacted, That no Person or Persons of the Realm, or of any other his Majesty's Dominions shall from henceforth pay any Pensions, Censes, Portions, Peter pence, or any other Impositions to the Use of the said Bishop or of the See of Rome, but that all such Pensions which the said Bishop or Pope hath heretofore taken &c, shall clearly surcease and never more be levied, nor paid to any Person or Persons in any manner or wise — Nothing short of the Slavery and Ruin of the Nation would have been the Consequence of their submitting to those Exactions: and the same will be the Fate of America if the present Revenue Laws remain, and the natural Effect of them the making Governors independent takes Place.

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It is therefore with intire Approbation that we observe your Purpose freely to declare our Rights and to remonstrate against the least Infringment of them. The capital Complaint of all North America hath been, is now, and will be, until relieved, a Subjugation to an arbitrary a Tribute as ever the Romans laid upon the Jews or their other Colonies. The repealing these Duties in part is not considered by this House as a Renunciation of the Measure. It has rather the appearance of a Design to sooth us into Security in the midst of Danger. Any Species of Tribute unrepealed will stand as a Precedent to be made use of hereafter as Circumstances and Opportunities will admit: If the Colonies acquiesce in a single Instance, it will in Effect be yielding up the whole matter in Controversy. We therefore desire that it may be universally understood, that altho the Tribute is paid, it is not paid freely. It is extorted and torn from us against our Will. We bear the Insult and Injury for the present, grievous as it is, with great Impatience, hoping that the Wisdom and Prudence of the nation, will at length dictate Measures consistent with natural Justice and Equity: For what shall happen in future, we are not answerable. Your Observation is just, that it was certainly an bad Policy, when they attempted to heal our Differences by repealing Part of the Duties only, as it is bad Surgery to leave Splinters in a Wound which must prevent its healing, or in time occasion it to open afresh.

The Doctrine that no Agent ought to be received or attended to by Government, who is not appointed by an Act of the General Court, to which the Governor has given his Assent, if established, must be attended with very ill Consequences: For besides the just Remarks you have made upon it, if whatever is to be transacted between the Assemblies of the Colonies and the Government, is to be done by Agents appointed by and under the Direction of the three Branches, it would be utterly impracticable for an Assembly ever to lay before the Sovereign their Complaints of Grievances occasioned by the corrupt and arbitrary Administration of a Governor. This Doctrine, we have Reason to think was first advanced by Governor Bernard, at a Time when he became the principal Agent in involving the Nation and the Colonies in Controversy and Confusion. Very probably it is now become a Subject of Instruction to Governor Hutchinson, who refuses to confirm the Grants of the Assembly to the Agents for the respective Houses. In this he carries the Point beyond Governor Bernard, who assented to Grants made in general Terms, for Services performed, without tacking up the Name of Agents; but Governor Hutchinson

Declines

declines his Assent even in that Form. So that we are reduced to a Choice of Difficulties; either to have no Agent at all, but such as shall be under the Influence of the Minister; or to find some other Way to support an Agent than by Grants of the General Assembly. But we are fallen in to Times, when Governors of Colonies seem to think themselves bound to conform to Instructions, without any Regard to the Civil Constitutions or even the publick Safety.

In the name & by order of the House of Representatives

I am with Respect your most humble Sert

Thomas Cushing Speaker

To Benjamin Franklin Esqr LLD

Approbation of such Grants (unless prevented by War) settle each Township with Sixty good protestant Families, build Sixty Houses, clear and cultivate five Acres of Land on each Share fit for Tillage and mowing; build a House for the publick Worship of God; settle a Learned Protestant Minister; and make Provision for his comfortable and honorable Support &c— And if any of the Grantees or Proprietors of such Township shall neglect within the Term of Six years, as aforesaid, to do and perform the Conditions aforesaid, as shall respect and belong to, his Share or Right, such Share or Right shall be intirely forfeited, and shall enure to the Use of this Province.

And as a further Security a Committee was appointed to take, and accordingly did take Bonds from from the Petitioners for the faithful Performance of the said Conditions; all which will appear by the Extracts from the Records of the General Court herewith sent; by which may be observed the great Care taken by the Court, that the said Townships should be effectually settled, the good Ends aforesaid ensured, and so valuable a Territory secured to his Majesty. Complaints have heretofore been made, that the Province have neglected to defend and improve this Territory, and in Consequence of them, Attempts have been made to deprive the Province of its Rights in it. This was the Case when Mr Dumbar took Possession of it in behalf of the Crown in 1729. If Neglect to defend and improve this Country would be a good Reason for a Forfeiture of Right, the actual Defence and Improvement of it must be a good Reason for the Continuance and Confirmation of Right. That the Province had not neglected it, appears by the Proceedings that occasioned the Royal Order for Mr Dumbar's Withdraw: and that the Province has defended it, the Forts of Pemaquid and George's River, Fort-Western and Fort Halifax on Kennebeck River; and Fort Pownall at Penobscot sufficiently demonstrate; and with respect to Improvement, what better Improvement, and we may add, what better Defence could there be, than stocking it with Inhabitants; to effect which the General Court has done all that was in their Power to do,

by

by granting the twelve Townships aforesaid; and by incorporating the Inhabitants of divers other Towns within the same Territory, on their applying for acts of Incorporation. As contrary and inconsistent Reasons have at different Times been urged to create a Forfeiture of the Province Right, it induces an apprehension, that we are not informed of the real Reason why the aforementioned Grants are not confirmed.

If there be no Design in Persons of Influence in England to procure a Part of this Country to themselves, we should apprehend the Preservation of the Mast Trees growing thereon, was the principal or only Reason of the non-confirmation of the said Grants. This is intimated in the Governor's Speech, where it is said, "That a longer Neglect of effectual Measures, on our Part, to prevent any further Intrusions, and to remove those already made will occasion the Interposition of Parliament to maintain and preserve the Possession of this Country, or District for the Sake of His Majesty's Timber, with which it is said to abound." and it is more fully expressed in his Excellency's Message of the 19th Instant to the House of Representatives, wherein it is declared, that "whether the Settlements there, be with or without Grants from the Court, in either Case the Settlers are (else) Intruders, for none have the Royal Approbation; and that by Means of such Intrusion Trespasses are easily committed without any great Danger of Discovery, let the Surveyors be ever so vigilant, and attentive to their Duty."

The Preservation of the Mast Trees is a Matter of great Importance, which the General Court would do all in their Power to effect, if they knew the Means of doing it. The most likely Method we can devise (unless the Parliament should interpose) is to settle that Country with Inhabitants. This was the Sense of the General Court formerly, in a similar Case, as more fully will appear by reading an Act, intitled An Act for preventing of Trespasses, made and passed in the Twelfth of George the First, which Mr Bollan is perfectly acquainted with, and hath very much answered the Ends proposed. It is certainly very difficult to detect and convict Trespassers when positive Witnesses cannot be had; and this will always be the Case when the Land has no Inhabitants; but when the same is inhabited, the Case is and will be quite otherwise — It may be further remarked that

the

the Trees reserved by Charter, are chiefly back of said Settlements, but few within them; and that had there none of these Settlements been made. it would have been impossible to have transported them to the Water side without incurring an hundred Times the value of the Masts.—

Upon the whole, with Regard to the Grantees aforesaid, as also the Grantees of a Township since granted at a Place called Matchias under the like Conditions & Restrictions, you are desired, and are hereby instructed, by Memorial to his Majesty, and in any other Way you shall judge proper, to use your best Endeavors to procure for them his Majesty's Confirmation of the Grants made of the Townships aforesaid. And if any Attempt shall be made to deprive this Government of the Jurisdiction over, and Property in, the Territory within which those Townships are situated, you are also instructed to do your Utmost to frustrate it. And with regard to the Preservation of Mast Trees, you will endeavour to procure the best Regulations for that Purpose, consistent with the Charter Rights of the Province. This Letter of Instructions is agreed to by both Houses, to be sent to their respective Agents; between whom it is a further Instruction, that there be a Co-operation of Measures for the Purposes aforesaid. There will be sent to you herewith, a brief State of the Title of this Province to the Country between the River Kennebeck and St Croix" printed 1762: which you will make such Use of as shall be necessary.

In the Name, and by Order
of the House of Representatives;
I am Sr your most obed.t Servant.
Thomas Cushing Speaker

Boston July 13th. 1771.

Sir

We take this Opportunity just to acquaint you that our Governor has received a late Instruction by which he is expresly forbid for the future upon any Pretence whatever to give his Consent ~~whatever to give his Consent~~ to any Law or Laws whereby the Commissioners, or any Person employed in the King's Service whose Offices have no peculiar Relation to this Province shall be liable to pay Taxes during his Residence here, for such Salaries or Allowances as do not issue out of any Monies granted by the Legislature of this Province— This Instruction was communicated to the House the last Day but one of the Last Sessions and threw the House into great Consternation, and was looked upon to be as arbitrary a Measure as any that has yet taken by administration — you will see the Message of the Governor to the House in Consequence of this Instruction and their Answer, in the inclosed Paper — This is indeed a natural Effect of the Right assumed by Parliament to tax America; for if the Property of the Colonists is at the Disposal of the Mother Country, to be taxed by Parliament at Pleasure, it infers a Right in them to exempt such Persons as they please from any Share of the Burthen — The People of every Class in Town and Country, except the Crown Officers, are greatly alarmed, and think it would, if conceded to, be a Precedent for the future Exemption of all who will fall into and support the oppressive measures, which will have a Tendency to increase the Number of their Dependents, and consequently to give them an Influence which must be to the greatest Degree dangerous — We have not Time to enlarge at present, but shall write you more fully by the next Opportunity — In the mean Time we inclose you an Account of the Taxes the Commissioners have paid, under the Hands of the Assessors, which appear to have been so light, that we can hardly think their Complaint of them can arise from any other Principle but a haughty Disposition to be independent of the Government of this Province which they have

Benjamin Franklin Esq.

heretofore

heretofore treated with an insufferable Insolence & We are with Respect

Your most humble Servts

Thomas Cushing

James Otis

Sam[l] Adams

Committee of the House of Repres[ts]

Thos Cushing, Jas Otis, & Sam Adams
Com. Hs. of Repr. of Mass
to
Benj. Franklin
July 13th 1771.

Letter in this Bundle
to
Dennis DeBerdt } Agents
& Benj. Franklin } Mass.
1765–71.

Aug 17 - 1771.

Dear Sir

As I have but little Hopes now of executing the Commission of the Gentlemen of Westmoreland County, it would be improper for me to retain their Subscription Money any longer; and therefore, if you will take the trouble of drawing on me at Mr James Coppedge for the Sum remitted, your Bill shall be duly honored.-

I have taken much Pains, & apprised, to obtain Lord Camdens Portrait, and am sorry for the Sake of the Gentlemen in Virginia of his Lordships and my Honor that I have not succeeded. I thought myself once sure of it but am now taught, that men here have other Ambition, than to be esteemed & honored.

by their fellow Citizens. Should the varying Politics of this Country suffer his Lordship, at some future Time, to sit to a Limner. I shall take the Liberty of troubling You to indulge the Gentlemen to honor me with the acceptance of the Portrait from me.

The News Papers talk of Changes & a Coalition of Parties. I am indifferent to the first, & I think the last would be dangerous; the first would produce no change of measures, & the last would be an irretrievable confirmation of the public Mischief nothing but a new System can give Comfort to the People & do honor to his Majesty. It is thought no new System will be voluntarily adopted, but must necessarily arise from some dreadful Calamity.

Your Brother the Doctor who has been much out of order is now at Bristol.

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I desire my Respects to the
Gentlemen of Westmoreland County
and Am
Dear Sir
London Your most Affect.
Augst 27. 1771. Edm: Jennings

Dec 29-1774

In my last Letter to [illegible] expressed my fears, that I could not execute the Commission the Gentlemen of Westmoreland had intrusted to me. [illegible] after having appointed several different Times for Mr Wests attending, Him hath at length intirely forgot his Promise, - The Times are so bad, that no one can be depended on, & therefore tho his Lordship has done undoubted Service to the Cause of America & of England too, yet I am not sure, if the general Rumour is to be regarded, but that he may adopt a System different from that which fair Fame & an honest Independance would mark out.

Draw for the Money in my Hands at two Usances and your Bills shall be answered. and should his Lordship at any future Time recollect his Engagement & be

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Worthy of your Approbation & Esteem
I shall beg the Gentlemen to Accept from me
his Portrait.

I am Dear Sir
Your most faithful
Humble Servt
Wm Jennys

London
Decr 29. 1771

I a . . . . . yesterday

-turning from the hot-wells, I had the
honor of receiving your favor of the
29th of July. As there is no person whose integrity
& judgment in public matters, I suspect more
than yours, nothing could give me more
satisfaction than your ~~gratification~~ approbation
of our last proceedings at the Bill of Rights.
I am inclined to hope, that by faithfully pur-
suing such measures as may contribute, at
this alarming period, to vindicate our vio-
lated rights, our Society may revive from
its late severe blow, & rise in the esteem of
the People. I cannot but think, that by hono-
rable & spirited exertions, we may yet be

useful

an c. 3.

erecting a new one, in wh. a the way
of Mr. Wilkes should not be an object. The
real design of it was to ruin that Gen-
tlemen & render the Society an instru-
ment of theirs. He & his friends saw the
design, & the honest part of the Society adhered
to him. Samuel Adams was the principal Agi-
tator in this intrigue, supported by the Alder-
men Sawbrey, Townsend, & Oliver. I was a-
mong the objects of their attempts to seduce,
but it did not succeed. The question was car-
ried against them after almost a whole
night's debate; & they & their party seem-
ded. Unfortunately almost all the mem-

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Francis Lightfoot Lee Esqr London Jany 20th 1772

My Dear Brother,

By this time the Liberty Capt. Bayson is well on her way to Occoquico. Capt. Walker it seems is to go Passenger in Capt Fox. for tho' he talks of not coming to any settlement with me before he goes, what scheme he has in view I cant tell, but to prevent his being troublesome to you about his (d)ead Horses, on the one he bought of me he says you gave him express order to buy on my account. You must know that I made a precise and positive agreement with him, which I can prove, and that he will. however to allow him £60 Sterl^g for all Cabin Expences for the whole voyage, House hire & Expences in the Country, this I did to avoid the numberless disputes that generally happen about these articles, therefore as our agreement stood, it was nothing to me if he had spent £20 or £200. on these Articles, I was still to pay him £60, & no more, nor any Less. but what does he do? why he Charges the £60 and every thing besides, especially for all the above Articles, Does not this put you in mind of a certain account that Old Mercer was call'd in to settle between a Councellor in W^mburg & a Gentleman in Westmoreland. The Horse Walker bought must be on his own Account, notwithstanding anything you might have wrote to him, because he knew the Bargain which you did not, and therefore the whole must be considered in the light of an imposition on his part.

I have no doubt of a multitude of untruths being told about me, as many, many tales, have been told me with a sanctified face, about almost every one of my Friends in Virginia. But Remember what Junius says in his

Letter to

Lord Mansfield. To show you that what I allow'd Walton was more than sufficient. I have a Captains Account last year of a Ship that brought home 670 hdds of Tob.o from James, York & Rappa. Rivers, all whose Cabin Exp.s Horse hire and Expences in the Country do not amount to so much as I allow W. by £50.

I have Chartered 180 Tuns in the Liberty Capt.n Cutram who will sail for York River the 16.th of next month, in her I shall send a small Cargo for Hutch.n Hipkins & Tomkins, she is without exception the finest Ships in the Trade, English built & only a few years Old, She complys of this Charter will lye on you Shou.d any one Tobacco on York, and what may be got from the Humble W.m Nelsons, Col.o Corbins, W.m Dob.o Blair, Col.o Lee, Carter and others, and I suppose Capt.n Bayton will not be able to take in all the Tobacco that will be for him on Pato & Rappahanock I think the best plan will be to fill up Capt.n Bayton immediably with the Potomac Tob.o that is ready for him, & what he may want from Rappahanock and send what remains to Capt.n Cutram whom you will find an Industrious stirring man & will give you all the assistance in his Power. I have found it impracticable to get a Ship for W.m Woodford so was obliged to take this Charter in Capt.n Cutrams.

I suppose you as soon as possible have a meeting with our Brethren C. M. Lee and settle the Plan of operation with him, and if you find it will be too much trouble to you to collect the Tob.o & send it round to York, I know of nothing that can be done but for you to look out for some active Man & make the best terms you can with him to do it, but in this you will be better able to Judge when you see Capt.n Cutram who is to wait on you as soon as he arrives if he does not see you at the April Gen.l Court.

I shall write you more fully by him, Capt.n Dobbie will sail for

Rassia some time in March [illegible] ing your Goods
and I shall try hard to send [illegible] my Accd Sales by
time, but if the present Frost continues a [illegible] time, we shall
sell no Tobacco, till March or April [illegible]

I have paid Capt. Walker in Bills he drew 2 Money
for the last Voyage £667.19.11, besides the money he recvd
of Mr. Hood £55.16.8 in all £723.16. Sterl 2 the Ships
Freight is £691 only, so that I have already paid him
£29.16. over the whole Freight. his demands is a good
deal more, and all his outfitt 2 Insurance full £800
more, so that the Ship by his management has made
a fine Voyage indeed. Will. after writing the above
Capt. W. and myself have come to a final settlement
I have taken the Slave he brought & did Diagram
on myself so that he is my Property, you will therefore
do the best you can with him, so that I may
not Loose, I shall write you again so soon, that
any more now would be needless, only to recommend
your early attention to Capt Bayton 2 Cutrane, We
have no News — Col. Taylor has the Gout, We are
all well God Bless you 2 Mrs. Lee 2 Love us
as We do you both 2 am

Your affectionately

William Lee

Copy —

Original warrant } Besides, with this was sent to Capt.
to Capt Walker 2 } Walker's own hands a letter for Col. P. Lee
all to himself — } cover 2 the respondentia case in his usual
} way: a letter for Col. Taylor gone
for Richard Henry Lee, all by me William Lee.

Francis Lightfoot Lee Esq.

My Dear Brother. London Feb. 17. 1772.

It has been so long since any of your letters have come to hand, that I am sure there is none of them to answer; so with referring you to mine by the Liberty Rayson who left the Downs for Yeocomico, the 5th of Jan.y with a fine & fair wind that continued near a month; & by Capt. Walker who went passenger in her for Rapk. since that; I bring to write again next week by Dobbins about your own affairs, I shall confine this entirely to the Liberty, Outram, in whom I before wrote you I had chartered 200 hhds, the complying with which rest on you for it is to be; but as I said before sickness or any thing else sh.d prevent you from taking the trouble on yourself, I must rely on you to procure some body that is able & willing to do it, as the charter is by all means to be complyed with. Capt. Outram I expect will arrive some time in the April Gen.l Court, & to stay 90 or 100 days if necessary at his moorings, at Merediths landing, in Mattapony River

just above Col. Carters. As his course of business will lye altogether on York River & in Middlesex, he perhaps may not cross Rapp.k at all (tho' he has promised me to call at your house to settle the plan of operations with you, but this I do not much depend on) it will rest with you to procure the tob.o on Rapp.k & if you can get craft conveniently to carry it round to York 'twill be so much the better, but if you cannot, the notes & orders wh.ch as soon as possible be sent to Capt.n Outram & he must provide craft to carry it round. By means of the Hobbs hole Gent. you will every King & Queen & King Wm.n Courts have an opp.ty of writing, or sending any Notes to Capt.n Outram, if you can't go yourself, as I suppose he will constantly be at them both. It is reasonable to expect that he will arrive some time in the Gen.l Court, if you wh.d be there 'twill be so much the better, but if you are not, by means of Col. Taylor you will get this pretty soon, & therefore will have full time before you. I will lay down the plan which appears to me the best to pursue & you will abide by it or alter it, as appears best according to the present circumstances.

I suppose Capt.n Rayson will be able to compleat his load in Potomac, but if he wh.d not, the most convenient tob.o wh.d be sent to him from Rapp.k — If there wh.d remain on Polo: enough to fill a craft, after Rayson is fully provided for, & one can be conveniently got, such overplus wh.d be sent to Outram. There is my own tob.o

on York for Outram, I have wrote to Col. Corbin, the Presi-
dent, the Secretary, young Nath.l Burwell, the son of
Carter Burwell, John Blair, Landon & Rob.t W. Carter,
Ja.s Mills & Parson White if you may apply to W.m Lewis to ship in
discharge of his protested bill & the Two Wormeleys, be-
sides any one else you may think proper on York & after
knowing from Outram who promises to deliver the letters
carefully & solicit them for Tob.o what quant.y is to be had
on York, you will then see what is necessary to be pro-
cured for Rapp.k & I w.d advise you in the first place to
see our B.r R. H. Lee & together fix on what is best to
be done. I have shipd by Outram a cargoe for Mess.rs
Hopkins & Tomlin am.t £1664-2-11 — for this I presume
they will send Tob.o & tis to be hoped the qu.ty will be some
thing clever; if the terms proposed to M.r M. Smith and
Lee & Garnett sh.d be acceptable to them, they can't give
a better earnest of their sincere intentions, than by ship.g
pretty largely in Outram. John Gordon, I. Corrie. Buck.k
Butler, all my friends in Essex that have shipd, With W.m
Roane. T. Waringe. Hudson Muse, Gawin Corbin Jun.r
Rob. Beverley, T. B. Martin Tob.o with what I suppose
may be got for the small cargoe sent P. Walker last year,
if Rayson does not want it, my good friend Col. Taylor
& Ch.s Carter of Corotoman, Will I hope, assisted by what is
on York River; ship enough to make up so small a quan.ty
as 200 Hhds. —

4)

Sh^d the before mentioned plan not procure as much Tob^o as is wanted, I sh^d approve of y^r indorsing any Gent:^s bills as you did last year Muir's & Tarpleys, that is to am^t of the Country cash price for what Tob^o they ships in Outram; The bills to be drawn at 60 days sight & after the ships sails; always taking care that orders are sent in time for insuring such Tob^o & that the shippers are sufficient for any little deficiency that may happen, tho' of this, there is not much danger where the Tob^o is tolerably good. Neither Muir's or Tarpley's Tob^o are yet all sold, but it does not seem to me at present that they have overdrawn what it will nett. And if there is no loss, on such a volume this year, which has been the worst known, this long time, for common Virg^a Tob^o there is not much reason to apprehend any in common years, especially in this instance, as all the Rapp^k Tob^o that Outram brings will unquestionably sell better, as com^d from York River; than it w^d if sent in any Rapp^k ships. If at last, that is, in Decr or Jany after Outram arrives, you find that you cannot get Tob^o enough to comply with my charter in hand, the only resource is to purchase, tho', if that is possible to be avoided I had much rather it sh^d be so; however for fear it sh^d not be possible you have a letter inclosed to Mr Richd Hanson in ——

in Peterburg, who is directed where to purchase ye — the qu.ty you are to mention to him & the time he is to get it on board. If you determine that it is necessary to purchase — for Outram, you sh.d inclose my letter to Mr. Hanway & send it by the post or an express, whichever you think safest & speediest; whatever expence you incur in forwarding Outram's 200 tlbs, you will let me know by him, that you may have credit for the same & it will be proper, whenever you send to Outram either lbs. in craft or notes or orders, to be very particular in directing him, by whom they are shipp'd, to whom consign'd & where to send you their bills of loading. I think I have been now quite as full as explicit as is necessary, the rest must be left to your own discretion & Judgement, only observing that you can't give me too frequent or minute intelligence of all your proceedings in this business. If the small Cargoe is not sold when you get this, I have no farther to say but to desire you will accept the first offer you can get, & it sold for lbs. that it may be sent either to Rayson or Outram whichever want it most & to whom it is the most convenient. Your two bills on me pay.e to Wm. Carr am.t in the whole £199.17.7. are honor'd. Mr. Jam.s to write by Dobbie next week, who is to bring your goods, I have only now to assure you (Dear Sister of Mrs. Lee's & my sincere Love, being most truely y.r affec.te Friend & Br. William Lee.

My Dear Brother. London March 3d 1772

You have herewith a copy of mine to Dutram, & cannot recollect any thing material to add to it, therefore can only refer the same to your further perusal. Capt Cobbin brings the goods you desird, am.t as p. Invoice inclosed £98.13.3 all which I hope you will find right. For fear bad air might get in & spoil all y.r bottles, I have had one gross in the cask N.o 8. filld with Porter which is at your service. I intended you a most valuable present, not from the cost but it's contents, which was a set of Blackstones Commentaries on the Laws of England; 3 Vol.s are in y.r chest N.o 7. but the firm had sent to a young Gent.n & expected to get it from me to send with this, but after sending to him for 3 or 4 times I am at last told, that he has mislaid or lost it, so that the set is in some measure held; however I will endeavor to get from Dublin

a first Vol. to compleat yours. I know you are an anxious man for speedy sales, which in general is a good scheme, tho' not always, however if you sell as much as I have done, it will answer no good purpose; for in Truth I have not sold one third of Vols since Christmas, not for want of inclination or attention, but because I can't get a reasonable price; the only offers I have had, were 3/4 for Col. Taylors best sheild & 2/p & 2 5/8, for the best of ye Mr. Henrys, the Squires, Mr. J. Turbervills & Lq. Lees entales Vols.— such offers you must allow I have been right in refusing; however I will not wait for better things longer than a month more. I suppose by Jordans death, Mr. Pitt must be disengaged & the same I suppose will be the case with Mr. Hodge as J. Stuart is dead & his debts in Virg.a it seems must be immediately paid or sued for, & Mr. Campbell will most likely loose the Convict Contract, tho' he has offer'd to extend them without any expence to Govern.m.t; but the Contract has been actually sign'd by L.d North in favor of Anth.y Bacon & it is at present that— that Mr. Campbells offer will not make any alteration. Mr. Pitt & Mr. Hodge are both active

clever men in business. I leave it with you to form any plan with them in my favor that you may think beneficial.

I have requested it of Capt. Dobbie to take in, at Gravesend a Ton or two of Chalk for you which he has promised to do, but I can't depend upon it; but he is to let me know whether he does or not, that I may try to get some one else to do it if he does not.

You have the Magazines & Papers that contain the News. Mrs. Lee's letter to our D. Sister is inclosed & I send her my most Affect. Love. Heaven bless you both

Farewell

William Lee

P.S. There are in my Chest No. 7. several parcels marked RL. for our Br. Richd. Henry, & one paper parcel marked IWG. for Mr. Gilbert pray contrive them to the owners.

11

Francis Lightfoot Lee Esqr

My Dear Brother,

London March 27.
1772.

As I could not get any chalk for you on board either Dobbie or Carnaby, I did not forget it but have now sent 2 Tons, on board the Cochrane Capt. Duthie for you. This ship is to lye at Hobbs' Hole to load gr. the Capt. is to have no freight or primage, I have agreed with him that you are to send for it to the ship if the sooner you do so the better as she may not stay long in the Country. I have shipd in him upwards of £200. worth of goods more for Messrs. Hopkins & Tomlin, which I hope you will urge them to remit for by Cutram.

I find Mr. Lloyd is inclined to take some offence at me, but really without any just cause for you will probably see him in Virga. this spring it may not be amiss to speak to him on the subject. He wrote to me last summer from Virga. for some books, to be sent him by the first

ship.

ships for Wye given the sail he wrote by Darnell
one of Mr Gales (as Mr from Wye) for some other
goods to be sent by the first of Gales or Anders
some ships — well; in Aug? one Maclachlen
a (as? of Andersons sailed for Wye, & the time
of his going (seemingly with design) was so con-
cealed, that I knew nothing of it till a day or
two before he went, so that it was impossible
to have the books got ready (which by the bye
was the only order I had at that time rec?) so
I wrote to Mr Lloyd — this winter (Darnell
has returned to Wye, but refused to take Mr
Lloyds goods, as I wrote to him — Mr Lachlens
Darnell are the only two that have sailed from
hence to Wye since Mr Lloyds first order
came to hand & I do never think of sending
his goods by a ship going to Annapolis ex.
Patuxent (& even without express directions to do so

The other day I rec? an angry letter from
Mr Lloyd complaining of his goods not being
sent — however the true motive of his acting so
is evident enough to me & you shall know it.

Since the death of Mr Gale his former principal
correspondent, Anderson who when in Maryland was

so liberal of his abuse of Miss Lloyd, has been making a strong push to regain Mr L.o business which old Col. L. had taken away from the house on Acc.t of this very mans behaviour while he was in Maryland — & by means of his Capt.n & his Crew's here with young Mr. L. he has endeavor.d to instill poison into Mr L.o ear ag.st me who he thinks is the most likely rival he has to succeed ag.st him — however if he does exasperate Mr L. ag.st me, I am much mistaken if it is any great benefit to him, as I think Mr. L. must have too much sense to trust his affairs in such hands — I cannot trust this no interlly to you, at present I have a little cold that makes me a little uneasy & tomorrow morning I am to go to Gravesend with Stewart to see the last of him, so that I can't write any more at present, but you will hear from me again next week by a Potomack ship.

Mr. Lee joines me in affec.t Love to you & our Dr. Sister — I beg my best respects to Col. Taylor & the Family all at Mt. Airy

I am most sincerely
Yours William Lee

11

Francis Lightfoot Lee Esqr

My Dear Brother, London April 24. 1772

Tho I can't accompany this with y^r Acc^t Sales, I can't neglect to forward by this first opp^y the inclosed advices from our Br Doctor Lawyer, on y^r cask as stated by yourself in your last favor of 28th Feb from Wmsburg, via Bristol, on which I will not presume to comment, tho I may say a word or two from myself without offence to any Doctor Graduate or ungraduate in Europe Asia, Africa or even, America; so here it is. From the seat of y^r complaint it does not appear that Bile is the original cause: it is an obstruction in the duodenum or what is commonly call'd the great Gut, this produces a fever apparent or a feverish habit, which generates too great a quantity of bile, that will be always troublesome, because it injures the stomach (tho you do not mention that y^r complaint is ever attended with vomiting &c) which renders the application of internal medicines

more difficult: But I think you may depend that
Bile is [illegible] not the Cause, only the effect &
perhaps it is in some measure owing to this
mistake, that you have been hitherto lyable
to repeated attacks. I don't think y[r] constitution
will be much weakened if the greatest danger you
sh[d] strictly guard against, is an inflamation
of the bowels during the attack. As to medicine
you have the Doctors directions I will only say
that the purge you mention to have usually
taken does not agree with me by any means
proper, especially during the fit, Aloes & Senna
not only gripe much in the operation but
are particularly heating as purgatives & those
proper for you, are what will leave a laxative
of the intestines after the immediate operation
is over. As to Regimen, a too frequent use of the
rights of Venus will be highly prejudicial; the
reason is obvious, therefore need not be mentioned
There is no exercise in the world that is so whole-
some & proper for strengthening the Abdomi-
nal viscera & shaking off any obstructions
in them as riding on horseback, this you
sh[d] use every day more or less when the
weather will permit & in the winter, a clean
trotting horse will be best & in the Summer
a good Galloper: no Calling in any [illegible]

Whitings or indulging in steel Springs (Starch must be allowed of). By way of relation I shall now touch on that part of y^r Letter which relates to Business. The day you wrote last, a Maryland ship that left the Downs the same day or the day after Rayson, got into Hampton road; so that by the first ship I shall expect to hear of his arrival.

You may be assured that Rayson is master of his Trade as a Seaman, he is esteem'd industrious here, & I must say that he appear'd so to me therefore my friends will I hope take the trouble of directing him in the ways of the Country, for this year & the next, he ought to be able to make his own way good. I can't think you ever saw Mr Woodford — he knows about as much of a Ship & Navigation, as y^r man Billy Loudoun, for he never was at sea'as a Sailor in his whole life, only one voyage to the W. Indias as a passenger before he came here & yet he had the unparralell'd vanity to think away he could & wd undertake the entire charge of a Ship & at the same time had the modesty to ask higher perquisites than the eldest Captn in the Trade were ever allow'd. If he ever had any smartness in any way he surely left it all in Virg^a to nurse, for he did not bring one Atom of it here, & in short I think myself very fortunate, in not having a connection with him.

You will know by this time, that I have relieved you this year from the disagreeable task of ask'g any Cap.t to bring tob.o to me ~~[illegible]~~ by providing room for 200 hhds in the Liberty, Cutram, which I am in hopes from y.r Letter you will find no difficulty in filling up. ~~the quantity~~ If in any of my letters, a complaining expression may have escaped me about the Cargoe, you may in some manner thank yourself, for not letting me know as soon as you sold it. If I understand you right the buyer is to pay the am.t of the Invoice & the Country charges, with this I shall only lose my Commission & freight, with which I am now well satisfied, & thank you for the trouble you have taken with them. You do not mention the buyers name but I hope you will put it him to take Insurance, & that the money will be sent home in time to be in hand when Grayson arrives; & I wd request you never to buy for me a bill drawn upon any Merch.t in Scotland, tho' it shd be made payable in London unless you can buy them for 2 p.t P.r Cent Exch.a than bills on London, for you may depend there is that real difference between bills on London & Scotland, tho' I can't persuade Mr Treasurer Nicholas of this, who has it more in his power than any other man to rectify this abuse & imposition of the Scotch Factors by which the Country loses some thousands every year & all to the emolument of Glasgow. ——

Two days ago for the first time Christmass, I sold 20 or 30 of my Hhds of Tob.o & the rest are still on hand so that 'tis not possible for me to say what they will nett, there is not a great deal of old Tob.o in Town, was mine of good quality it w.d sell fair enough but it has little more merit than an old stick; however I do not think there will be any thing lost by keeping it, & its being unsold need not have prevented you from drawing as your bills will be honor'd if you draw for £10 ₱ Hhd, which is I dare say more than 'twill nett & I hope you will never submit to a Calcutta Dunn, for fear of drawing on me, as you know there is nothing in my power which you may not command.

Mr.s Lee myself have the most affectionate feelings for you & Fair side. I thank you for the intelligence about my Estate, I can't think Cary W. is a good crop maker, for it is impossible any Land can be so poor as in the first years, to require the labor of 4 Negroes to make 8 or 900 lb of Tob.o — Farewell, Wish you health & every other happyness being most sincerely & affectionately Yours, Williamdeg

11

My Dear Brother

London June 23. 1772.

I rec.d yr. Greigg your's of
Apr.l 22. giving two letters from our N.C. P. H. via
Glasgow relative to Capt. Rayvans load; we are
advised that Aubrian arrived the 2.d of May: I hope
you will find no difficulty in accomplishing my
engagement with him, & I wd. advise always to
mention in my.r letters who & what quantity of
Tob.o is shipp'd to me in the different ships; this
is really necessary that I may know whose bills
to pay, as every body you know is not to be
trusted. I have many Acc.ts of sale & Acc.ts Curr.t
ready to send yr. the first Potomac or Rapp.k ships;
this conveyance is by Maryl.d & therefore too un=
certain to send such things by. We have had here
for ten days past the most alarming confusion
that perhaps has been known in the mercantile
part of the City since the South Sea year.

Fordyce & Colehoman, in partnership with

Neale, James & Down as Bankers, pd was a very considerable Banking House — 10 or 12 days ago Hardyer viewed himself the house stop'd payment immediately & since has become Bankrupt. This House stopping like Wildfire ran thro all the Scotch connections & produced a Bankruptcy or stopping of payment, of all the Capital Scotch Houses in London except two or three among the rest Boggie & Heatley in the Tob.o trade & that shook some more to their very foundations yet it is not clear that some won't tumble yet; you can easily guess the most likely — on Monday the 22.d inst.o all the town round absolutely furious made — such a run was made on all the private Bankers from a general consternation that siz'd almost every man who kept cash with a private banker, that if it had continued one day 3/4ths if not all the Bankers in London must have stop'd — the money taken from them was carryed into the Bank of England for security & this morning the Bank opend its doors to support all the private Bankers of Credit, which put

a stop to this epidemical madness & now every thing is quiet in that quarter; Tho' in the conversion one capital Banking House Glyn & Halifax gave way & all be this might in the Gazette. All this immense storm did not in the least touch my little Cottage so far from being affected with the epidemical madness, I carryed money to, instead of taking it from my bankers & you may be sure was as busy as a bee with one chicken crying out & crawling in the streets & highways that they were all Mad. I think 25 Capital Sickh houses ~~I think~~ have stopped here & now the Air Bank is in imminent danger & nothing can save it but the Bank of England's assistance which is hitherto refused; This is one of the first Banks in Scotland; how far this Bagpipe stopping will affect the Glasgow Merch.ts you may judge, but by all means do not send me any bills on them, Tho' they are payable in London & you may advise all our Friends to take care of same, Tho' you need not mention it as coming from me. I have several years been endeavoring to prevail on my Treasurer to avoid these bills as I have long seen the iniquity of them & know that they are a loss of several Thousands annually to Virg.a; but all my writing has been to little purpose)

for most of his remittances still continue in that channel & I shall not now be disappointed if those of the bills he receivd for me this year are protested.

I have wrote you enough — Mrs Lee Love & mine attend you & your Dear Sister always — Farewel

William Lee

P.S. Col Phils cause of Banishery is appt for tryal the 25th inst: when it is determind I shall write to him & send his Acct of Sale &c. all ready — Mrs Love & all at Stratford

(No 57)

My D.r Sir

Philad.a

July 12 1792

an old acquaintance of Mrs Shippen a Mrs Cash offers to carry this with the best wishes for y.r happiness of your dear sister is still at y.r sea side to try what effect y.r salt water may have on her distress'd mind & body which continue in a miserable condition - her sufferings are inexpressible god deliver her! I have no doubt of her final happiness tho she has - She loves to do good & is perfectly humble thinking every one better than herself & every thing too good for her

Yours affectionately M Shippen

Dr Griffin has not sent y.r money

W. Shippen's letter
12th July 1772

(1871)

Richard Henry Lee Esq.r

at Chantilly

By Gaw.r Mr.Crisp. Virginia

Broadhead's Ad.r
Aug 12th 72

Province of the Massachusetts Bay July 14: 1772.

To the Kings most excellent Majesty

Your Majesty's loyal and faithful Subjects the Representatives of your Province of Massachusetts Bay, beg leave for themselves and their Constituents to lay before your Majesty their humble Petition and Remonstrance, and to implore the Interposition of Royal Clemency and Justice for the Redress of their Grievances.

The Inhabitants of this Province had long shared in the Blessings of good Government under the mild Administration of your Majesty and your Royal Predecessors, until your British Parliament saw fit to pass divers Acts for the express Purpose of raising a Revenue in America without the Consent of your Subjects inhabiting therein. It was this that filled the minds of your Subjects of this Province with Discontent: Being astonished that your Majesty's Council should advise to a measure which in a great Degree deprives them of the Rights and Liberties of free and natural Subjects granted to them by the Charter.

The House of Representatives did in the Year 1768 remonstrate to your Majesty this grievous Infraction of the dearest Right of Englishmen: Our Hearts are too deeply impressed with Loyalty, and Affection to your Majesty's Person and Family to imagine that a Failure of the Redress then prayed for, can be imputed to any Want of paternal Regard in your Royal Mind, for all your Subjects. It becomes us rather to suppose, that the Petition and Complaint, unfortunately for us, did not reach the Throne.

Among the many Evils which are already the Effects of the Revenue Acts aforesaid, too many to be at this Time enumerated, we beg Leave to make mention of one only, which we humbly conceive threatens the

Ruin

Ruin of that free Constitution derived to this Province from your Majesty's illustrious Predecessors. —

By the Act made and passed in the Seventh Year of your Majesty's Reign, "for granting certain Duties in the British Colonies and Plantations" &c, it is enacted that all the Monies that shall arise by the said Duties (except the necessary Charges of raising, collecting, recovering, answering paying and accounting for the same) shall be applied in the first Place to making a more certain and adequate Provision for the Charge of the Administration of Justice, and Support of civil Government in such of the said Colonies and Plantations where it shall be found necessary, to be applied for the aforesaid Purposes "as your Majesty or your Successors shall think proper or necessary". —

Your Majesty will now permit us humbly to remonstrate, that by the Royal Charter of this Province granted by King William and Queen Mary of glorious Memory in the Third Year of their Reign, for themselves their Heirs and Successors to the then Inhabitants of the Province and their Successors forever, it is granted, that the General Assembly shall have full Power and Authority to impose and Levy proportionable and reasonable Assessments, Rates and Taxes, for the Support of your Majesty's Government of the Province, to be disposed of according to such Acts as are, or shall be in Force therein". By this Charter it plainly appears to us, that it was intended by the Royal Grantors that the General Assembly should be the constituted Judge of the adequate Support of the Government of the Province, and the ways and means of providing for the same.

Accordingly the General Assembly hath ever since the Grant of said Charter, which is more than Eighty Years, annually made the necessary Provision for this important Purpose; and as it is a very material Part of the Support of the Government, they have taken effectual Care to make the necessary Provision for the honorable Support of the Governor; and their annual Grants, and other ordinary Provision for this Purpose, have in general been satisfactory to those whom your Majesty has been pleased to intrust with the Administration of the Government of the Province, and always equal to the Abilities of the People.

We

We beg Leave therefore further humbly to remonstrate, that this Operation of the Act aforesaid derogates from one of the most sacred Rights granted by the Charter, and most essential to the Freedom of the Constitution, and divests the General Assembly of an important Part of Legislative Power and Authority expressly granted therein and necessary for the Good and Welfare of the Province, and the Support and Government of the same. And your Majesty will allow us to express the Sense we have of the Disgrace that we cannot but apprehend is implied in the Advice given to your Majesty, that it was necessary for your Majesty's Service that adequate Provision should be made for the Support of the Governor of this Province independent of the Grants and Acts of the General Assembly; as though the said Assembly were either not disposed to make suitable Provision for, or not competent Judges of an adequate Support of Government in every particular upon which your Majesty's Service and the Happiness of their Constituents depend.

We are perswaded that your Majesty is so well informed of the Nature of all free Governments, and of the Constitution of this Province in particular, as to render it altogether needless to suggest this important Consideration, that the matter of our Complaint destroys that mutual Check and Dependence which each Branch of this Legislature was wisely designed to have upon the others, and the Balance of Power, which is essential to all free Governments: It renders the Governor not dependent upon the People as the Charter has prescribed, and consequently not in that respect the same Governor whom the People consented to at the granting thereof; and in its Effects exposes the Province to a despotic Administration.

We therefore most humbly beseech your Majesty whom we revere as the Head and common Father of all your Subjects, to take into your wise Consideration, the Grievances which your Subjects in America so remote from the Royal presence labour under by Reason of the Acts aforesaid, and particularly that your Majesty would be graciously pleased to give Order that the Right and Authority granted by Charter to the General Assembly to impose and levy proportionable and reasonable Rates and Taxes upon all and every the Proprietors and Inhabitants of the

Province

Province for your Majesty's Service in the necessary Defence and Support of your Government therein, and to dispose of the same according to the Acts of this Government may be fully restored.

Assuring your Majesty that as we ever have been, so we still are ready to make suitable and adequate Provision for Purposes so important and necessary, according to ancient and invariable Usage.

And the Representatives of the Colony of the Massachusetts Bay, as in Duty bound shall ever pray.

In their Name and by their Order

Thomas Cushing Speaker

1773

Petition & Remonstrance
of
The Province of Mass. Bay
to
The King
or to
The Right of the Crown to
raise Revenue &c

14 July 1773

(No 82)

Mercy. between us July 17-'72 my last, worth
mentioning but the Report of the Privy Council in
favor of a new Colony just where our Petition was
located. It happ'd contrary to the opinion of Lord
Hillsborough, who however stomachs the affront
keeps his place.

The Petitioners in the present Scheme, knowing
the impossibility of proceeding in the manner we had
planned, adopted the more successful plan of bidding
money. At the same time to gain the place of prior
claim, they admitted the Ohio Company. With this aid
& the promise of £10000 down, they have procured
a favorable Report, on which it is probable the Grant
will be made. Much for your sake it was more certain,
for I think my Ld Hillsborough's opposition renders
it still doubtful. They mean to comprehend in their
Grant, the back Settlers, who are without the line of Vir-
ginia; & by that manoeuvre they expect to facilitate
the Settlement.

When this Scheme first commenced I remonstrated to the Board of Trade against it, in behalf of the Mississippi Company whose claim was prior & yet unanswered. The reply was, that as money was offered, it was a Treasury business. As I had no power to offer money, & indeed was persuaded that our Company could not come into any such measure, I desisted from any further opposition to it. It is certain, that a little money will at present go a great way, for nothing can be more needy & rapacious than the present Court. But I am afraid our Company have too little ready money

to do, we
foreseeing a times of gre
of ye next g^eneral Election should be decidedly
favourable to ye Court; I have taken up my freedom &
Livery in the City of London. This gives me
a vote in the Election of Representatives, L^d
Mayor, & Sheriffs. In these last we should find
our only security by their summoning impartial
Juries, in the event of any violent proceedings
under the form of Law. It gives me admission
to all their Meetings & Deliberations, which en-
ables me to take a lead in advising them, when
the times call for extraordinary exertions. Nor
is it of small importance in the Law, to be known
& esteemed in the City of London.

We expect the Liberty soon, when I hope to
see my Nephews. We have settled it, that St Bee
will best answer your plan of Education.

Our Mr Willm is very well; & Mrs Lee is
on a fair way to make him a Father very soon.
There is therefore no danger of the name being ex-
tinct on either side the Atlantic.

The Council have determined against Col.
Lee in his appeal against Newbury. And tho it was
under the direction of Chief Justice Wilmot, I cannot
but think it was clearly against Law. Indeed he
founded his opinion on what he calls the merits of
the question. But how he could get at the real
merits, from a record of a Demurrer in Law, is to
me utterly inconceivable.

My Love & best Wishes ever

* Leave a blank here in our MS. for me to fill up.

Francis Lightfoot Lee Esq.

W. L.

My Dear Brother

London July 20. 1772

I have not rec.d any of your favors since my last of the 23.d Ult.o by Capt. How yet this time I could find in my heart not to write as it is not in my power to send y.r Acc.t of Sale for y.r last Tob.o & consequently not y.r Acc.t Curr.t but of y.r Hhds are still unsold; that I have never been offer'd more than 2 1/2 for, & this I have refused as yet; but I will not hold out much longer — very little that is sold, but one, is @ 2 3/4 which is the most ever sale of any in my books. By this Opp.ty are sent 19 Sales 26 have been sent before, & still 8 remain among which are yours, the Squires, our Br.s H. H. Lee, & Geo. Lee Estate Hudson Muse. Tarpley's Tob.o overpays his bills.

I sh.d be very uneasy at not sending y.r Sales were I not satisfied you have confidence enough in me to believe that my conduct is influenced by my desire of promoting your interest. Thus far, when y.r obliging favor by Capt. How of May 22. came to hand. Poor old How died in the Passage. To show you what a Man Capt. W—r is you have inclosed, a copy of my letter to you by him;

I wrote also to Col. Taylor, Col. Phil. & R. H. Lee, and delivered the letters myself into his own hands, which I could prove if it was necessary. As to the complaints of my correspondents I shall say little, because I know they are not founded in truth & Justice. Acc.ts of sale could not be sent 'till the Tob.o was sold; the prices of goods shipd by me (I will venture my whole estate upon it) are as cheap proportionably to the quality, as those shipd by any Merch.t in London to any part of the world, & much, very much cheaper than 9/10.ths of what are shipd to Virg.a & Maryd. As to Drawbacks I must be mad indeed, to gain 1/6 to pay 5 or 10/ to the custom house Officers; consider that I have seldom sent in one ship at a time above £1000 worth of all kinds of Goods. I chearfully accept the proposal of charging 3/. C.t instead of 25/ P.h.d on Tob.o it will add considerably to my profit on the whole & it shall be so for the future. The squire & some others that 42/ P.h.d little enough for Maxwell but 25/ is too much for me — I will endeavor to please all, tho' I know 'twill be in vain; but I am determind to persevere as far as I know how, in what is right.

I am so well convinced of yours & your B.r R. H. Lee's good disposition to serve me that I shall always acquiesce in your determinations, & whenever they are not attended with success, I shall only accuse

the fickle Goddess Fortune. Another year a smaller ship than the Liberty will probably be sufficient; indeed if the prospect does not mend I may perhaps give my friends on Potomac the very little future trouble this will much depend on your intelligence this fall.

As Rayson must now be on his passage & Cutrans to sail soon little can be said about them; I must however beg you will endeavor as much as possible to prevent Bills of every kind (unless what are on your own Acc.t) from being drawn on me, 'till after Christmas; for you cannot conceive the distress that almost everyone is in here for want of money, owing to the late multitude of Bankruptcies — all confidence is gone & I know not where I could borrow a Shilling to keep me from Jail. Two Sch.rs have stopped payment, a third run off to Maryland & several others are on the brink of ——— . You will hear more soon. Several Sch.rs have stop'd in Glasgow. You can't oblige me more at present than by pushing home to me every possible remittance with all expedition — for the storm here is almost as black as ever & no man can see where it will end or when it will stop. I w.d press Col. Phil: but Hanbury's Judgem.t here ag.t him will be pressing enough; if he does not meet with a severer blow which every creature here daily expects. Pray when you are at leisure look over all my letters for 12 Months past & answer such parts as you may have overlooked, particularly send me Wm Hicks's Acc.t as it stands on your Ledger that you have. Remember Ld Leis Negroes Goods, Adrue Ewart, does not know how to act. Adrue Ewart forwarded William Lee

London, July 22. 1772

This minute yours by Anderson came to hand dated June 12. In faith my Dear Brother you have given Dr. Blood too much money, near £10 Ster. 50 Gs.; as the case stands I will pay Farpleys bills & insure his Tob.o as to other bills except my own & Col. Taylors let the worst come to the worst you know I can but protest or run to Virg.a — Taking apart prevent all bills on me as much as possible for times are so hard that the Scotchmen are all running to their own country by which you may be sure things are bad enough in all conscience. God speed their journey. I will as soon as possible make the insurances you mention in Rayson; My Charter in Outram will make a sorry figure — where are the 200 hd.s of old Tob.o that Col. Phil. could not get freight for to me — I suppose Rayson has put them in his pocket. I wish he had squeezed you a little more & squeezed in 300 hd.s. This ship I always that might bring 370 or 380 hhds, which is the utmost she can do. If you could persuade my Br. Lloyd to send me a draft for £4000 or £5000 now, 'twou'd be a charming thing — Tell the Squire his bills on me will be all protested this year. You have some papers & the two last months Magazines in a seperate packet, & some late papers with this. I wish you every blessing. What is become of my Son that was on the Stocks. Mr. Lee & myself are my Dr Sincerely, William Lee

I am very greatly obliged to my dear Brother, for his remembrance of me. I am indeed afraid, that an attempt to get money from The Attorney or the Doctor, is [futile]. Besides the Furniture which I sold to Griffin, I left (torn) case, some for Col. Fairfax, to the amount of £ 30 (torn) I suppose was never delivered, as I left an order with (torn) B^{r}Loudon to receive the money from the Col. wh he has not paid. D.G. has not given me the least account of any thing.

Mr. Horrochs is no more, but the Commissariate was engaged for C. long before his death. I am satisfied that Mr. Giburne is the most proper and Mr C the most improper person in the Colony for such a palce. But the Bishop is a high Church-man. The turbulent, arrogant, unchristian spirit of the latter, is therefore the strongest recommendation.

Ld Hillsborough is out. The ostensible cause is his having dissented to the establishment of a new Governt. where our Petition was located. But the true reason is, that the bedford party were determined to remove him, to provide for one of themselves. But in this they were disappointed. For L. North, threatning to resign, they were obliged to sooth him by the appointment of his half Brother Lord Dartmouth. He is therefore now our Secretary of State. This place was originally promised to him, but the King, as is his custom, deceived him; & it is recon'd somewhat shabby in him, to accept it now. However he is a man of good principles, fair character, exemplary life, and a friend to America. And I have no doubt, but that as far as it depends upon him, which indeed will be very little, the Colonel will not have much cause of complaint. There is no opposition nor any forming. Indeed, without some extraordinary incident, there will be none during this Parlaiment. (torn) the meeting of a new Parlaiment, the Leaders will memory of their former follies is obliterated, I venture (torn) to unite in that opposition, which they so shamefully ahandoned. Nothing is more uncertain than the (torn) volution of States, nor can any one form a tolerable conjecture from the appearances in the political Shape. This is our only comfort, in the midst of a calm, which seems to resign every thing to the will of a Court that is meditating & executing a systematic destruction of our Liberties.

Mr. Montague is now supporting my [?] L^{d}. Hillsborough's doctrine, that an Agent, who has not the sanction of the whole Legislature ought

not to be admitted. I suppose his friends, will not have the effrontery to propose him any more. Mr. Adams sails from hence immediately, and I dare say will push the matter for himself next Assembly. I can see very plainly, that whenever your opposition to the Bill ceases, they will introduce it for some of their friends; so that the Colony will not be long exonerated of the expence.

Parson Willson (for so I may now call him) has met with no difficulty in his Ordination. I expect to be at the Bar, just in time for the Next General Election. And to be then employed -s Council at some contested Election, which is a fair introduction into a valuable branch of the Profession, that of pleading before the House of Commons.

I understood that the Master of St. Beas is changed; whether that School will continue to deserve the reputation he gave it is doubtful. From some Letters, our Brother W. had had from Yorkshire, I am inclind to think favorably of a School there. However we shall consider well, before, we determine for our Nephews; because changing Schools is detrimental.

Dr. Franklin continues here, and is likely to (torn) give me very little chance of the boston Agency. (torn) out the sanction of a public character, it will (torn) for me to have accepted or influence with my (torn) mouth. His acceptance of a place, at this t (torn) so displeased L^{d}. Shelburne, that I cannot ask (torn) commendation. Iam to be introduced to him, (torn) a very particular introduction or a public ch (torn) entitle one to more than ordinary attention. (torn) objection to your being made a Comm.^{er} is the (torn) a B^{r} already. The example of the Nelso (torn) Dulaneys may obviate that. If Mr. Gib responds with his Lordship, the mention (torn) word, give great strngth to an application. (torn) certainly apply for you now, as soon as I have (torn) any acquaintance with L.D. but it was imp (torn) for me to ask a favor of L.H.

Be so good as to ask Loudon, whether he (torn) to Col. Fairfax, about the Furniture I left him at (torn) & what his answer was.

My Love to Mrs. Lee, & your little ones, at Stratford & at Loudon's
I have forgot the name of his Villa.
Temple. Aug.st 7. 1772

Adieu

A. Lee.

May 17. 1772

I am very greatly obliged to my dear Brother, for his remembrance of me. I am indeed afraid, that an attorney to get money from the Attorney or the Doctor, is free. Besides the furniture which I sold to Griffin, I left a cask, some for Col. Fairfax, to the amount of £30. I suppose was never delivered, as I left an Indenture with Mr. London to receive the money from the Col. as he has not paid. D. G. has not given me the least account of any thing.

Mr. Horrocks is no more; but the Commissariate was engaged for Cannon long before his death. I am satisfyd that Mr. Gibbons is the most proper, & Mr. Cannon the most improper person in the Colony for such a place. But the Bishop is a high Church-man. The turbulent, arrogant, unchristian spirit of the latter, is therefore the strongest recommendation.

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friend to attend. And I have no doubt, but that a few will be sent upon him, which indeed will be very little, the Colo will not have much cause of complaint. There is no opposition, nor any forming. Indeed, without some extraordinary accident, there will be none during this Parliament. At the meeting of a new Parliament, the Leaders will by memory of their former follies is obliterated, & venture in to unite in that opposition, which they so shamefully abandoned. Nothing is more uncertain than the election of states, nor can any one form a tolerable conjecture from the appearances in the political Sky. This is our only comfort, in the midst of a calm, which seems to assign every thing to the will of a Court, that is meditating & executing a systematic destruction of our liberties.

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ing before the House of Commons.

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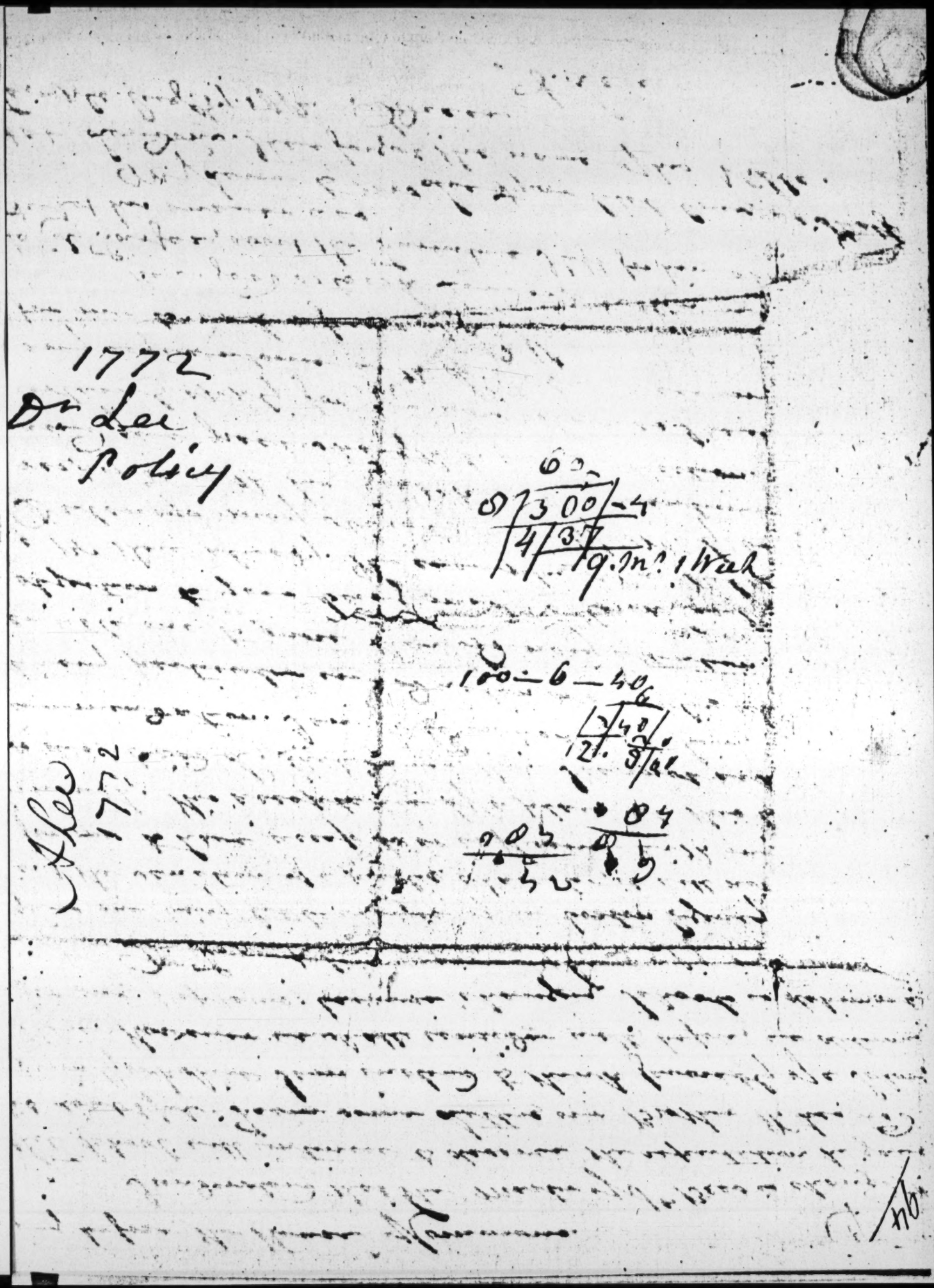
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Be so good as to ask London, whether he has to Col. Fairfax, about the Furniture I left for him at Stratf ticket his answer was.

My Love to Mrs Lee & your little Ones, at Stratf ter London's. I have forgot the name of his Ville.

Temple. Aug. 17. 1772. Adieu

R. Lee


1772
Dr. Lee
Policy
60
8 / 300 - 4
4 / 37
sq. Inch. Wall
100 - 6 - 40
6
12. 8/4
.04
2 0 2
4 2 5
Plan
1772

Francis Lightfoot Lee Esq.r

My Dear Brother,

London Aug.t 20. 1772

Since mine of July 20 & 22.d
Stat & Aug.t 4. via N.t York, under cover to A. Stewart & copy under cover to M.r Nicholas, yours by Page is come to hand. Cap.t Aubram writes that has taken 100 hhds off my charter & as you had got 5 hhds for him the add 5 hhds cant be much damage whether bót or consign'd. I have to be sure much reason to trust my very existance in the hands of the Merch.ts — Think of Gordon, & Hopkins & Tomlin who have shamefully & Barefacedly forfeited their first engagement with me. If my terms are not approved I am perfectly easy, particularly the first relative to security; that must remain my, sine qua non.

Good Men & True, as Shakespeare says, could not have any objection to my securing myself ag.t certain Ruin. I have sold the last of y.r Tob.o which is to be deliver'd next week, after which by the next ship I all the remaining Acc.ts of Sale for Walkers last Cargo will be sent i pray ask him what he did with all my letters he undertook to carry out with him. There is no wickedness or villainy I can't suppose a Man w.d be guilty of, who is mean enough to secrete letters — entrusted to his care. However he will verify the old saying "that Listners never hear any good of themselves.

I trust, with you, that persevering in what is right with firmness, ultimately succeed; this shall be my rule. I am indeed sorry that m^r Lloyd is offended, tho' his business with me was much less than with any other of his correspondents here; had it been much greater I sh^d not have altogether liked, the high commanding stile of all the letters he ever wrote me but one.

Comm in Council Comm^r, Ld Hillsborough is out & Ld Dartmouth is in his place; little other news, my best Comp^ts to m^r Gibbons, I shall write him very fully, Our best Love to you all Family &c

most Affect^e William Lee.

P.S. You have in a packet the last month's Magazine I wrote for it ——

"

Francis Lightfoot Lee Esqr

My Dear Brother London Sept. 19. 1772

Since my last of the 2d. Inst. by Smith, I have rec'd yr. several favors of June 2d, 30th Gillis, July 15th by Jones & Capey & Dobbie & have observed the contents. Rayson & Pulram both arrived at Dover the 15th but from contrary winds neither are yet up, nor have I yet Rayson Letters so can't say any thing to them. Their arriving together so late, when a great many bills on me are paid & now paying every day will puzzle my skull a little, but still I don't fear coming off much better than many of my neighbors. I am exceedingly obliged by yr. diligent attention to my troublesome business this year & beg you to believe me gratefully sensible of yr. sincere affection for me; which would make me happy if I could forward you a more agreeable Acct. of Sales for yr. Tob.o P. the Liberty last year, than the inclosed, nett proceeds £133..4..6 to yr. Credit. All that I can say is that I have done as well as my ability would permit for yr. interest & this I am sure you will believe. You have a Mag.e & Paper, by Jay I shall write in a fortnight. Heaven Protect you all

Farewell, William Lee

Francis Lightfoot Lee Esqr.

My Dear Brother, London Sept. 21. 1772

You have inclosed my Acct. Curr. Bal. due to you £33.19.3. which hope you will find right. I have rec.d W. Rayson's Letter & shall carefully attend to all his directions. My Dft. shall be paid & I will pay the hungry McCall. I don't doubt my remitting as fast as possible any money of mine you may have in my hands; pray urge the paym.t of all the debts I left with you. Again repeat my thankfull acknowlegm.ts for your great kindness in the managem.t of my affairs this year. I write you fully your own my plan of operation next year, having now only a moment to beg of Affec.t Love to you & your Dear Sister & most ely am my Dear Friend & Brother, William Lee.

Sept. 23d. Yesterday the Liberty came up the River
& I had the pleasure of receiving your favor of the 2d Inst.
I am extremely sorry to hear that your mention of your
son, but as he is young I hope attention & advice may yet,
eradicate the seeds of vice & implant virtue in their
place. You enclosed more of mine which I am sure he
wanting, for that purpose, when he came here. The
subject of Education is embarrassed with difficulties &
there is no certainty. Experience & mature
consideration are necessary & after the most deliber-
ation one hesitates to advise of measures. How
much shall I will not be probable to find anyone
except it be in particular circumstances which
I have the expence will not permit & that you have
considered. However all possible enquiry shall be
made. The money is ready to be remitted to you. The Country
in Maryland are so much engaged & have in their
power, that I think it will be necessary to order
some Vessels up there. I will take care that Stewart
shall be informed of the Compliment you pay him
& I am sure he will be filled to begin Trade.
There is an extreme scarcity of Provisions in Virginia & back
which I dare say will soon drive which must be their Ruin
& unavoidable Ruin from London, & the sooner they

Sept. 23d. '72 (No 53)

Yesterday the Liberty came up the River & I had the pleasure of receiving your favor of the 2d of July. I am extremely sorry to hear what you mention of your Son, but as he is young I hope attention & advice may yet eradicate the seeds of vice & implant virtue in their place. No endeavors of mine shall I am sure be wanting, for that purpose, when he comes here. The subject of Education is entwined with difficulties & there is no surmounting. Expensive & inadequate every where & in every view, after the utmost deliberation one has only a choice of inconveniences. I am much afraid it will not be possible to find any where except it be in Yorkshire, or some remote part, where the expence will not far exceed what you have mentioned. However all possible enquiry shall be made, & the result transmitted to you. The Livings in Maryland are so much preferable to those in Virginia; that I think it would be prudent to endeavour to secure one there. I will take care that Ludwell shall be entered at the Temple, in such time, that he may take a Degree at 22, & be fitted to begin practice. There is an expence of postage to Glasgow & back with a delay of ten days, which make their Bills less valuable than those of London; & therefore they

ought in honesty to draw at fewer days sight.

I am entirely satisfyd with your suppressing the last Monitor, & wish I could be of your opinion respecting the devotion of our countrymen to the maintenance of their liberties. It seems to me that both the establishing & maintaining freedom depend upon principle & virtue in the people; & I am persuaded these are wanting in America. It gives however great comfort that you & Mr. Dickenson continue to think otherwise.

By the advice of Mr. Jennings I entered at Lincolns-Inn, but have Chambers in the Middle Temple. My views are at present towards the english bar: which I shall pursue unless I should be diverted by something very tempting or discouraging. It will be near four years before I can take a gown, tis a full little for compassing so difficult a Profession.

Mrs Macaulays 5th Vol. and Sir Jo. Dalrymples Memoirs of Gt. Britain are the only publications of merit.

Give my love to Mr. Lee & your Family & expect to hear from me again by the Liberty.

God bless you — Adieu

R. Lee

(No 53)

(Copy enclosed)

(No: 168.)

Box 58.

Aug. 1st 1800

Oct.r 1772

Dr. Lee,

Political

Letter

& ob.t entering

Incidents of the

Times

1772

Col.o Richd. Henry Lee

Chantilly

Potomac River

Virginia

T. Light. Le Esq.

My Dear Brother,

London Sept. 30 1772.

I write you a few lines the 21st. Inst. p. the Mail; you will find the drawback on y.r Sugar in y.r Acct Curt tho' I have not yet rec.d it, for the future it shall at once be deducted from the price. Pray send me by some carefull Capt.n to deliver himself, a copy of y.r Acct. Curt. & also y.r agency Acct., I shall to morrow land the first Tob.o from Rayson. H. Mure has been in a great hurry to draw for his bill for £100 came home in Rayson to Mollison; his Invoice will exceed £800. some additions being made to it, besides he has sent an Invoice for his Br. (Dan.l) al.t £500. all this I shall expect him to answer for, therefore hope you will take security from him Accordingly. Send me no no Scotch bills on Any Acct., I have some by me now, that I must lose 2 p.C. Ster.g in the Exch.a & tho I want money bad enough, god knows,

I wd. not have you remit my money at more than 2 3t. (? Exch.) — Sir pity Mr. Smith's mo[ney] may not be remitted whenever; but we can't help it now. I am greatly obliged by yr. kind interposition with Mr. Lloyd & hope he is now satisfied; as to the Books, those which were out of Print, must have been got second hand unless he wd. have had a new edition struck off, for one vol; as for instance there has been no edition of Bever[ley] Hist.y of Virg.a these 20 or 30 years & many of his books were in the same predicament. I will endeavor to have a ship in Pato. in Feby. at farthest, which is full early as I have never found the upland Tob.o is all at the Warehouses before May or June, however you may better our — friends to be more expeditious. Pray — excuse me to my very worthy & good friend Col. Taylor for not writing now as I have nothing new to write. Our best wishes attend you, Farewell, William Lee

P.S. Hatchery Largest last year averaged within 2 or 3 £. 18. 0 l.d. I fancy very, very few Largest will do as much; pray tell Col. Landon this.

A General Account of the Country Eastward of Sagadahock River in the Province of Massachusetts-Bay in New England. October 1772.

The Greater part if not all the Lands lying between the Rivers Sagadahock and Penobscutt were Patented by the Council of Plymouth; - viz.

Grants
1st - Jan. 1630. Granted to William Bradford, and his Associates, Heirs, and Assigns, fifteen Miles on each Side of the River Kennebeck.

2d - The said Council of Plymouth Grant to Messrs Leverett and Beauchamp, Ten Leagues Square, on the East Side of Penobscutt River.

3d - Said Council Grant a Parcel of Land lying between the Rivers aforesaid to one Ellbridge and another.

4th - A Patent was granted to Messrs Clark and Lake, now in Care of Chadwallader Ford, Esq;

As to the first Grant the Heirs of William Bradford, and Associates, have settled a Number of Towns on the same, most of which are Incorporated. Cannot ascertain the Number of Families, but suppose about 60 in each Town, As they have been long settled, in which Towns none have a Minister of the Gospel settled, except Woolwich, Gardnerston, and Arrowsick-Island, and neither have sent a Representative.

As to the Second Grant,

Messrs Leverett and Beauchamp, Heirs, Associates, and Assigns, are regularly settling, and have already settled Three Hundred and Seventy Two Families thereon, but not being Incorporated, have not Town Priviledges, nor have ever had a Representative, or a Minister of the Gospel settled among them.

As to the Third Grant,

It is now in care of one Mr. Drown of Boston, some of the settlers have been prosecuted by him, and have given him their Obligations for Sums of money, to stay on the land; other settlers have quitted the lands, and removed Eastward of Penobscutt River.

As to the Fourth Grant,

This Patent includes part of the Town of Woolwich, which Town has Eighty-four Families; many of them have been long settled there, and since the last Peace, Chadwallader Ford, Esqr. commenced suits against divers of the settlers, for fee of the Land, which Suits were left to a Rule of Court, and are finally settled in favour of said Ford, Esq; - These settlers not being able to give Twenty Shillings an Acre (the price demanded by Ford) for the land, many have been obliged to leave them and go further Eastward.

About the year 1730, Colonel David Dunbar was commissioned by his late Majesty to lay out and settle Lands in the Eastern parts of the Massachusetts-Bay-Province, accordingly he laid out several Townships East of

Kennebeck

Hennebeck River, and many Families settled on them, who in time of War, erected Garrisons, &c. and defended themselves, and those lands, without any Assistance from the Crown, or Province; since the last Peace, these lands have become the object of the attention of many. — In 1666, one Robin Hood Sagamore, made a Deed to Henry Curtis, Fisherman, of a place called Winneganee, now Boothby. In 1679, said Robin Hood makes another Deed of the same land to one Henry Champinos; The Heirs of Bradford and Associates, and the Heirs of Curtis, and of Champinos, now lay Claim to Boothby. The two latter have cajoled a number of the settlers and obtained their Obligations for sums of money, to bear Interest, which the settlers gave, rather than be turned off the Lands; other settlers would not give their Obligations, but moved with their Effects to Lands East of Penobscutt River.

Boothby was Incorporated in the Year 1766, by the General Assembly, and have settled a Minister, but have not sent a Representative to Court; there is 147 Families in the Town. — In this manner are the Lands settled between the Rivers Sagadahock and Penobscutt.

An Account of the Settlers East of Penobscut River.

In the year 1762, The General Assembly of Massachusetts-Bay, Granted Twelve Townships of Land lying to the Eastward of Penobscutt River, to James Duncan and others, Petitioners, who proceeded to lay out the Lands agreeable to their several Grants, and returned a plan of the same to the General Assembly, which was accepted; the Petitioners then proceeded to lay out each Town into Three Divisions, the Charge of which amounted to near £250, on each Township, The Proprietors nothing doubting his Majesty's willingness to Grant, and Confirm Wild and Uncultivated Lands in all parts of His Dominion to Protestants who would settle them, sent down upwards of 600 Families upon said Lands, and impowered Richard Jackson Esq; in London, their Agent, to sollicit the Royal Confirmation of those Grants, but without Effect. The Proprietors thus situated, from a Paragraph in Governor Hutchinson's Speech to the General Assembly in 1771, viz. That those Settlers have no Colour of Right, &c. Have ever since been discouraged from making Improvements of their Land. — As those Grants have not been approved, the Settlers could not apply to be Incorporated into Towns, and being Deprived both of Law, and Gospel, are in a state of Anarchy, many of them are more like the Savages (who dwell among them) than like Christians, and their Children are growing up in the same Way.

An Island commonly called Deer Island, lying on the Eastern side of the Entrance of Penobscutt River hath sixty Families settled thereon, who have applied several Times to the General Assembly for a Grant of said Island. The General Assembly not knowing his Majesty's Pleasure respecting the Townships by them before Granted, have not Granted the Prayer of their Petition, but ordered the same to lye on their Table.

The

The Settlers, when they found they could not be fixed in a Regular State, by Lawfull Authority, two years ago, they entered into mutual covenant, and ever since carry on Affairs, as tho' they were Incorporated into a Township by the General Assembly, and have erected a Meeting-House on the Center of the Island for the Publick Worship of God.

Fox Islands lying a little without Deer Island has Thirty Six Families settled thereon, and is nearly under the same circumstances with Deer Island, but have not Erected a Meeting-House.

The Number of Families between the Rivers Sagadahock and St. Croix is, Twenty-four Hundred Thirty and Eight including the Island——
(Arrowsick and Parkers Island not mentioned.)

The Number of Training Soldiers is about Thirty-five Hundreds,

2438 Families
6 to a Fam.
14628

Soldiers betwen 16 & 60 — 3500
4
14,000 Souls

Account of the Settlem.
Est. of the Penns. Estates.

Oct. 1772

My Dear Brother London Nov. 18. 1772

One word or two with you. My Ld Bute's Lottery tickets N.os 17,088. & 17,089, are recorded yet undrawn value £26.5. tickets are now from 11 to 15 Guineas for no prize above two is yet drawn.

M.rs Lee is now well, but has been most dangerously ill; after 3 nights & days she was delivered of a still born female child.

We are most confoundedly puzzled for money, J. Bland has disappointed you need not be surprized if some more of our gentry sh.d do the same, this winter or next summer tho' I am told most of the Factory bills for Tob.o purchased will be protested. I will endeavour to have a ship in Pato. in Feb.y & beg you will push all my friends to get their Tob.o to the Warehouses in time. I intend to give Blackwell a ship, if he can charter one — Tob.o is origin very low, a great deal is sold to the Farmers at 2½.

very good will only bring 2/2 tho very fine in
3 or 4 hhds in a parcel will bring 3 to 3/2 —
but I have none such but my own crop ——

We think the price must rise for 4 or two able
hands as well as myself will little, in general
the distress is so great that whatever is offerd
is taken; I will tell whenever a tolerable is offerd that
the value may be returnd soon. H. Munis Sale
last year did not sell so much as he drew for
as he drew one bill more than you endorsed of
this year I am sure it cannot, as his Tob.o is
of very indifferent quality, much better having
been given to the French at 2/3. We have no
news, we shall wish you all health & happiness
being most sincerely Dr Sr William Lee.

Francis Lightfoot Lee Esqr.
Virginia

(No 8)

Gentlemen

No date (1772?)

Our Petition is now, by my particular request suspended, at the board of Trade, till I shall solicit a final determination. I have from time to time written you an account of the steps I took, & shall now recapitulate the whole, that you may judge of the propriety of the last, of which I flatter myself the Company will not disapprove.

When I read the first Petition to my Lord Hillsborough, he observed one that the Location of it being without the limits they intended to draw, would render it impossible to obtain the Grant; he therefore advised me to alter that before it was presented. Accordingly I altered it thus That your Majesty would grant unto your Petitioners, to be 50 in Number, by the name of the Mississippi Company 2,500,000 Acres of Land, in one or more Surveys, to be located or laid off between the 38th & 42d Degrees of N. Lat: the Alleganee mountains on the East & thence westward to the dividing line, the running of which your Majesty has been lately pleased to order. To alter, I inserted the Petition to the King in Council, but finding it lay there unnoticed, as the former had done, I waited on the L. President Gower, requested him my instructions from the Company to endeavor the obtaining an immediate answer to their Petition & intreated him to have it brought before the Board. This his Lordship promised he would do & it was soon after referred to the Board of Trade.

as I had learnt from several conversations with my Ld Hillsborough & Mr Pownall, that the quantity of Land requested was extravagant & exorbitant; I threw up the enclosed Memorial, with the hope of shewing, that the benefits to be expected from the Settlement, might well warrant such encouragement from the Crown, & the Lords &c said the Company must necessarily encounter in effecting it, fully deserved such a reward.

On waiting upon my Ld Hillsborough with this, he informed me that it was his opinion such settlements were not desirable & that it was the first opinion of the Board, that no such grants should be made to Companies. At the same time he promised me to give the Petition an immediate hearing. In consequence of this I received a summons to attend the Board on the 9th of May. There my Lord Hillsborough addressed me, much to the same purport as before, & desired me to offer what further reasons I had to the Board before they came to a determination. As I judged from this that no favorable answer could possibly be expected, I thought it was best to let the matter rest, that it might be resumed, when a change of Ministers should present a better opportunity. I therefore informed the Board, that I expected to receive further instructions very soon, & begged the Petition might be deferred to another time. Upon which it was agreed that the consideration of it should be deferred till I solicited a further hearing

I thought it my duty to push the matter as far as possible & that with the utmost dispatch as I knew this was agreeable to the wishes of the Company. But as I conceived the leaving it totally rejected would preclude us from recurring to it, or at least might be a bar to it, when a favorable opportunity occured; I thought it more advisable to have it left ready for any promising juncture. Especially as the strongest efforts are made to remove the present Administration & bring in one which I am sure will be more favorable to America. I shall be happy if the Company approves of my conduct, & hope soon to be honored with their sentiments of the whole business. In the mean time be assured Gentlemen, that I will embrace any opportunity of recurring the solicitation that promises success.

I have endeavoured, in vain, to engage some new & influence engaged with us; in this unsettled state of american affairs, people seem averse to such proportions. It happened so that most of those, who were then inclined have already obtained large grants in East Florida; among whom are the Lords Egmont & Hillsborough. I have learnt this but very lately concerning my Ld Hillsborough, & it may serve to convince us, that while he is at the head of american affairs, we have no hope of success.

I am. Gentlemen &c

A. Lee

To Richd Parker Esqr
Richd Henry Lee Esqr

(No 50)

(Copy Entered)

Arthur Lee
to
R. H. Lee & R. Parker

(1772)

Mississippi Company

Francis Lightfoot Lee Esq?

My Dear Brother,

London Jan? 30. 1773

After observing, that no letter from you has come to hand since the Liberty's arrival & that y? Ord? of A. Stewart & Lall? Ticket, are both £20. longer as the inclosed letters will shew, together with saying I think you very fortunate, that most, tho' not all, of y? Tob? is sold at reasonable prices for the times, I shall confine this letter entirely to my own concerns & refer you for more particulars relative to yourself, to my Debtie who will sail in ab? a month, & will bring y? goods, by him shall write particularly therein, in the Scotch Phrase, as we must all be Scotch Men, or at back, if we mean to live in these times. Rayson now sails in the Liberty again, & tho' he has stayed some days longer than I wish'd for not through my fault, yet he is certainly time enough, as he has the start of all my Rivals, & if he is not expeditious in his dispatch, I shall despair of any Ship of mine ever being so. He is fwith regard to his loading particularly addressed to our B? R. H. Lee, as his head Clerk, as yet, is not capable of taking in two things at once; I have no reason to believe him dishonest which is a great Point & I? not do better this year

I cannot expect a great deal from the Capt.ⁿ, — therefore the weight must fall on you my Dr. R. H. but hope you will not find any difficulty, as the Crop is immense & my correspondents considerably enlarged, together with the field being clear to you. The method wh. be to give the notes & orders to Rayson & let him provide Craft & get the Tobo on board in the best manner he can; as to what money he may want for the disbursements if you have any of mine in yr. hands, let him have what is necessary, at the same time taking his — bill of Exchq. on me for what he receives, which you can remit to myself; however 'tis most probable the value in Servants that he carry's out will supply him with as much money as he ought to expend. Please to keep a memn. of the Nos. of hhds you deliver to Rayson, with the time when & where & transmit the same to me when he returns; besides it is of much importance, from time to time, to make out a list of the Shippers names, with the Nos. of hhds opposite their names, & a mem: whether you think their promises are to be relyed on & transmit the same to me by diffr. opportys. while Rayson is loading. This is really necessary for my government here, as last year I paid some heavy bills on being promised a large quantity of Tobo. in Rayson when not a hhd came, but this I could not tell till it was too late, as neither Capt. or any body else ever sent me such a list as above mention'd. & This —

is regularly done to other houses, so that the merch.ts here
know, who ships somewhat N.o of Hhds, long before the ships
arrive & regulate accordingly the paym.t of bills. Without
being here you cannot conceive how frequent such fraud-
ulent attempts are made to obtain the payment
of bills, & the fraud has been carried so far, by one on
York River, who holds his head exceeding high & laughs
wonderfully at the Northern Neighbours, as to send
here on such an occasion false bills of Loading. This
is only for y.r own information, — 'tis not my business to
make an Enemy of such a Villian. In consequence
of y.r letters I have shipp'd now to M.rs Hudson Mure a
Cargoe of Goods am.t as P.r Invoice £973 - 6 - 9 —
for which I presume you have or will immediately
on rec.t of this, take from him sufficient security
according to my Terms which you have; he also sent
me a Scheme of goods to be shipp'd to his B.r Daniel
Mure, & wrote me his B.r expected them on the same
terms as himself; Dan.l never wrote, therefore have
enclosed to you a letter to Dan.l Mure, the Invoice &
Bill of Loading, & desire you will see M.r D. Mure
& on getting proper Security on the same terms
agreed with M.r H. Mure, you will order the Cargo
to be deliver'd to him. The am.t is £451 - 13 - 3 & for
the present stand to the Debit of Hudson Mure as
I have wrote him, he being the only person who
order'd them, & to whom you may deliver them, if
his Security is sufficient for them, & his own; pro-
vided Dan.l make the least demurr to the terms,

4/

I have no doubt of y^r address in manging this busines so as to avoid giving offence & at the same time to secure me effectually, 'tis necessary to say I suspect some collusion between the R.^d in the managem^t. of this business, that you may be properly on y^r. guard. D.^l Muse has had his goods from M——n; & has shipt Tob^o. largely to him, last summer. Mr Muse bill of £100. on me was remitted by Daniel to M——n. Mr Muse's bills endorsed by you, are all paid, his Tob^o. & Mr Rayson being very mean will not nett so much, nor did his Tob^o. & Mr Walker nett so much as he drew for, as his drafts were that year, more than y^r you endorsed; this shall be ord.^d certainly remit that year, as well as for the goods now sent, you shall know what the bal.^ce when his Tob^o. is all sold. Mr Jno Gordon has not yet remitted enough to pay for the goods shipt him in 1770 by at least £140. Hopkins & Tomlin tho' they positively engaged by Letter to remit 1/3^d in Tob^o. & the rest in bills, long within the 12 months, have not remitted one shilling in bills, tho' Hopkins has barefacedly remitted to others bills on me, & not one tenth part in Tob^o. so you see what little reason I have to trust to any professions, & therefore you may observe to Mr Muse that I cannot yield upon one title of my terms, if he or any one else don't approve, they are wel-: come to be off (for the future) for it really is not in my pow-: er, for any premium to ship Cargoes without

full remittances in time to pay for them; therefore
I beg you will take care that J. Gordon, Shipkim
& Tamlin, as well as the Muirs remit fully this
year either in bills deliver'd to you or Tob.o or
they must be sued, in order to save myself
from Bankruptcy if Thayer cannot bring all
the Tob.os, Dabbie & Carnaby take in upon Liberty
& Capt.n Outram will take in for me, any Tob.os
from Rapp.k, provided you will give him timely
notice to send for it. Pl. M. Carter owes ab.t
£10. & Jn.o Corrie ab.t £10. 10. for goods shipt him 1770.
Leroy Griffin for bills paid 10 M.o ago. £20. they
must ship Tob.o this year or pay the money with
Interest. 'Tis a folly to be concern'd with such
people for the interest of money is more than
their com.n are worth, besides my trouble & expn

You have inclosed a copy of an agreem.t entered into
here between m.r George Thornton for himself
& m.r Triplett his Partner & himself, in consequence of
which I have now ship'd them a Cargoe am.t
£1 by m.r the Jett — M.r Thornton came over here
recommended for this Purpose to Messrs. Perkins
Buchanen & Brown; they, he says have told him
they are not able to supply him with this Cargo
I have ventured on it; tho' confess with fear
& trembling as it will go nigh to break me
up if they do not remitt fully, which I beg you
carefully to look to & immediately insist on m.r
Triplett —

Triplett the Partner in Virg.a giving you as my Attys the Security agreed on. They have also a Cargoe from Liverpool ship'd by mr. John Backhouse, so that with a good look out I may be safe. Many Cargoes expected from hence this Spring will not be vent the Glasgow Merch.ts will hardly vend any thing from hence, so that these young Men have it in their power to make a great begining; but I have told mr. Thornton y.t I have wrote mr. Triplett, that unless they remit most punctually, I cannot again be their Merch.t — Shiping Cargoes y.t keeping Stores in Virg.a y.t Maryl.d, has brot such distress as you have no conception of, among most of the Tob.o Merch.ts here — One more such, (which is expected in the Spring) must break a great many. I do not think they can borrow such money as they have done, much longer.

Pray let me know as soon as you can M.r — no — nett proceed to the Squire for the Tob.o in C— — I know his & Col. Phil.s sold for 33/8 to 35/8 p.t lb. there being none such at that time in the market, y.t was really worth twice as much as what they sent me. I shall write fully to R. H. L. about an Agent as I find being fix'd to any Cap.t is a certain considerable annual expence, without an adequate reward & subjects me to great trouble & inconveniences, & I beg you will both maturely weigh the Subject & when you determine, let me know your resolution as soon as possible, that I may pro-

pride in time to execute it. To Col. Taylor pray you about a Negroe consignm.t, but request what I say may never be mention'd to any Creature.

My horse which Walker bo't, if not already disposed of sh.d be sold for as much as you can get, in the mean time I do not think he will suffer much by letting Cap.t Bayton have him to ride in the neighborhood of the ships, in order to spare his own for long Journeys. D.r Shadd's Tob.o cannot possibly sell as much as the money he has had therefore 'twill be advisable to get some more from him as soon as the ships arrives. From comparing what you write with what M.r Tomlin says about the Tob.o he shipp'd in his own name I am afraid you have not been explicit in the agreem.t — M.r Tomlin seems to think if the Tob.o sells more than at the rate of 2.d Cur.y p.d it is to be on his Acc.t but if it sells less, than it is to be on my Acc.t; I cann think you made such an agreem.t — pray say what it really was & be so good as to make out an Acc.t of y.r shipp.t of the Cargoe & the value, rec.d for it distinct from any thing else, that I may know how to settle it clearly in my Books & also that every person properly, with the money they have rec.d from you. Y.r goods are preparing for Dobbin when M.r Le will write to our D.r Sister, I'll then I shall remember you — only recommending the Liberty to y.r kind protection with our best Love to our Sister, I remain, most

Sincerely y.r Affec.t Brot.r

William Lee

My dear Brother. Temple. Feb. 7th. 1773

It grieves me to find myself absolutely incapable of promoting your wishes, on the death of Mr. Nelson. I have as little interest with the present Secretary, as with his Predecessor. Indeed his Labours are likely to run very much in the same channel. The prospect of such a change of ministerial measures, as will enable a man of principle to ask a favour with consistency, is very remote. In the mean time, we must wrap ourselves in our own virtue & be contented. Not being in any public character here, I could not have access to Lord Dartmouth, but in the same way of a Lover, to which I cannot descend. Nor would it be of any use.

The Court & ministry, are as hostile to America as ever. The Commissioners lately sent over, to bring Gaspee for trial, those who are suspected of having burnt his majesty's Sloop of War at Rhode Island, is the most dreadful violation of our Liberties, that can be offered. It is big with every evil that can be dreaded from a general Warrant, & the most cruel oppression. I am very much afraid measures is adopted, as it endangers the bringing things to that ultimate issue, which

cannot be warded off, for our advantage, by long. Year
daily increasing in strength, therefore protraction may
give us greater hope of success from the event.
To keep alive a just sense of our Rights, & of
these invasions of them, yet preventing things
from coming to an extremity, till increased strength
or a favorable moment shall render the issue
certainly favorable, seems to me the best
plan of action on our part. An unsuccessful struggle
now, might perhaps rivet our chains for
ever. Besides the late experience of mutual disaffection,
with the disunited state which is the
consequence of it, renders the probability of our
harmonizing, in any mode of effectual opposition, extremely small.

With these sentiments, I cannot help
thinking the northern Colonies are precipitating
matters too much. And yet they are a People,
from whose spirit or passion we have no
reason to expect a rash conduct. But to be
sure, they have had more than their proportion
of insult & oppression. My Lord Dartmouth will
not consent to violent measures; & tho' he will
not diminish, he will hardly increase the
causes of complaints.

The present distressed state of the East
India Company, will probably produce a repeal
of the Tea duty, but whether the Commissioners
and Admiralty Courts will be abolished, seems

very doubtful.

Since writing the preceding paragraph, I am informd that it is finally determind in the Cabinet, not to repeal the Duty-Act. But in order to ensure to the East India Company the American market, two ships are to be allowed to go annually to America. The justice of this measure is obvious. But they must have two years experience, before they will discern it.

I was exceedingly surprized, the other day, to be told that your Assembly had, last Session, sent a Petition to the King concerning the slave trade. I could not believe it, till I saw the Petition itself. My surprise was still greater, when from the style of it, I conceivd it to be your production. How could it possibly have happend, that you should never have mentiond to me a measure of such magnitude? Neither did Lt. Gov. Nicholas or any of my Correspondents say one word of it. There never could have been a better reason for supporting my nomination in the Committee. It was a measure of such importance to the Colony, that it demanded the aid of an Agent, & the consideration shd given that subject, would have given a peculiar propriety to the appointment. I protest I cannot see how your promoting that choice, in such circumstances, could have been deemd inconsistent with your former declarations on this subject. To say there never shall be an Agent, is not, in my opinion, wise; and surely if ever it will be proper, it was on this occasion.

Do you not think, that the consequence of this will be, that I shall forever be shut out from the Agency, & the moment you cease to exert yourself in the Assembly, the opposite interest will re-chuse Montague. Upon the whole the saving to the Country cannot be much, as every other Colony has an Agent, on occasions do frequently arise in which he may be eminently serviceable, & as a faithful one may be frequently so, why should you sacrifice me forever to a very doubtful advantage to the public? As to your being forward in opposing the importation of Negroes, it should be conducted, considering your situation, with great caution. You see at once an object of envy & hatred to some. Our Brother here is endeavoring to get you some Negroe Consignment, & should he succeed, it will certainly wear an awkward appearance, that a strenuous opposer of this trade, should be an Agent. You will consider this circumstance & act accordingly. With regard to your Petition, my L. Dartmouth has told us how he espouses it, but yet I do not think it will succeed.

I cannot help thinking, my fate is somewhat hard. I am considered here as the most determined supporter of the cause of America. I am therefore so obnoxious as to have no hope of favour here, nor am I likely to receive any reward from there, for whom I have sacrifised myself. Were my fortune independent, this would not give me a moments concern. I certainly feel that virtue is its own reward. But at the same time I cannot but be sensible, that narrowness of circumstances is a very great obstacle

Francis Lightfoot Lee Esqr

Dear Brother. London 23 Feb. 1773

Having wrote you very fully by Grayson about my own affairs, shall add little here, only to beg your particular attention to the several parts of that letter.

The goods you order'd are now vent & Dabbin amount as p. Invoice pr. inclosed £99.19.6. — to your Debit & hope they will please. You order'd only half a quire of writing paper which, is vent but for fear you wd. be short of paper to write home I have vent you half a ream, also 1/2 doz. Hocks & the 6 Doz: Hamper. fill'd up with Porter all which you will please to accept. Mr. Lee's bid is finish'd & now vent as directed with the other things. We dare not speak, as our Ministressen have had all the direction of this business — but under that Rose, I will whisper that I am of opinion I could have managed it somewhat cheaper; however if they are pleased we must be contented. I cannot answer for either of the pruning knives, but you have two for the price of one. The were in a out of the same pipe I choose for myself. The drawback on the Sugar you shall have proper credit for; as you had

last year, Tho' I never rec.d it, as the quantity was too small to pay the expence of a debenture. Six Hhds of y.r Tob.o are still unsold, I am in treaty for some of them, Whatever you may think of the proceed, I w.d give fifty pounds out of my own pocket, if it was in my power to return to all my correspondents as good Sales as yours will be. I am waiting to pick up a Glasgow bill for M.r Call — but I w.d wish to puzzle this Chap, who had the impudence to write me a very impertinent letter relative to a bill Col. Taylae drew on me; intimating that Col. T. had informed him of such a bill being drawn & as it was probable I could not pay it, he w.d take it up for Col. T.s honor — This was the more impertinent, as in all the hurly burly my credit has been unsullied, & this Chap has been notoriously suspected. I sh.d be glad you w.d find out & inform me, whether Col. T. ever wrote any thing to M.r C. to warrant such a letter from him to me. Having never heard from you since Rayson arrived I do not know whether M. Smith has ever paid you the Bal. of the money he had, therefore having paid a bill of his to Dobbie for £109. 9. 7. & having not been able to sell as much of his Tob.o as w.d pay the freight, I was obliged in prudence to protest, his draft on me for £120. 10. 8. at 30 days, which he never thot proper to advise me of. Tho' I have repeatedly wrote to most of my correspondents, particularly the Squires of the exceeding ticklishness of the times here, & that it was impossible for me to advance money, yet he among

the Bank have drawn more liberally than usual; the consequence they must abide by; as they cannot be real friends who endeavor to push me at such a critical time. ~~Mr. P. H.~~ Mr. I. P—ll has been obliged to solicit a letter of license from his Creditors (or he must immediately his Son in Law Mr. Lee) to a Clerk to Maryland to collect his debts. Some of the Cr have agreed, others have not; the issue is not yet known but you may be sure 'twill not be very good. Four or five others better must confoundedly yet think some must inevitably fall before the summer is at an end. From these circumstances you can easily judge of our situation, & therefore it will be uncommonly kind in you to remit every shilling of mine you can as fast as possible (as much as in you lyes, prevent all bills from being drawn on me. Col. Taylor has a right to draw upon Messrs Richd. Hill & Co. whose business is directed by Rad. Hunter Esqr. my Uncle; if their drawing can be delayed 'till the Fall 'twill be a great advantage to me & it may be in your power to postpone it, but when they do, if you have rec.d any money for me, it will be the best mode to buy their bills. As for Col. Taylor, I shall rely on his friendship to spare me as much as possible. You will hear that Mr Lancaster the clowerest partner, is to leave the house of Hydeman Lancaster & Co., how the business of the Co. will hereafter be managed; time must show. You have never mentioned the final result of yr. conferences with Mr. Lloyd relative to me, but I conjecture they were not very favorable; as soon after he returned to Wye, he wrote me

a very short letter covering a remittance for the Bal. of a few pounds over what was due me — He did not write for any goods & I suppose the means our correspondence is to end however I have wrote him two or three civil letters since his Br. here & seem much more cordial than he was: so stands the business at present. Should it so happen that there is more Sol.s for me than I have can bring Dobbie & Carnaby will I suppose both take in, on Liberty as usual, in which case you may, by applying early, get what room you want. Should Triplett & Thornton or either of the Misses want further Cargoes from me I shall expect they will send me with their Invoices a certificate from you of their having given the proper security on my plan, even then, without punctuality in remitting for what they have had, I cannot ship any more. I do not know when Greig will sail as he has not yet taken in any goods. Pray write to me by all opp.ties. My sincere Love attends my Dear Sister & with lasting affection I remain ever,

Your's, William Lee.

Dr Sir (No 54)

March 1. 1773

Fearful you may not receive the Instruction from Westmoreland I have taken the Liberty of sending you a Copy that you may know your Constituents Opinion with respect to this horrid Inquisition established at Rhode Island; What number of Subscribers there are to the original I do not know, but I fear there has been wanting in our County more Assiduity in an Affair of such Consequence; I wish I had been at Court to have assisted in this Matter: The Instruction will shew I have no Distrust of your Attention to the Cause of Liberty. I thought it necessary the Country should discover their detestation of so horrid an Attack on their Rights that you may not be told hereafter a few hotheaded Persons only were concerned in asserting their Rights. I expect to hear of a Dissolution of your Assembly but I know you are determined to do your Duty, Success attend you in every undertaking I am

My dear Sir

Your Affectionate Friend

Richd Parker

Should you not receive the original Instruction perhaps you may make some use of the inclosed

Wmsburg 1773

To

Richard [illegible]ny Lee Esqu[illegible]

in

By favor of
Mr. Carter

Williamsb[illegible]

R. Parker
March 1st 1773

No 249.1

No 249

(No 54)

1773

Intere
Papers, &c.
1771. to 177
Containing Co
=pings Conce
L. Camden
& the Corresp
of Ld Dar
in 1773 respect
Court of Requir
& the taking
frigate —

Copies Lette
H. Lee & Gr
respecting R
case —

Ivan.ᵉ Lightfoot Lee Esq.ʳ London Feb.ʸ 23. 1773

My Dear Brother,

I having wrote you very fully p.ᵈ Bayson, about my own affairs, shall add Little here only to beg your particular attention to the several parts of that Letter. The Goods you order'd are now sent p.ᵈ Dobbie and as p.ᵈ Invoice &c.ᵃ Inclos'd to £99. 19.. 6 to your Debit, and hope they will please, you order'd only one half guire of writing Paper, which is sent, but for fear you should be short of Paper to write to me, I have sent you half a Ream and also 6 day Clocks and the 6 Dog Stampers fill'd up with Paten all which you will please to accept. Mrs.ᵉ Lee's Bed is finish'd and now sent as directed with the other things. We dare not speak as our Mistresses have had all the direction of this busineſs, but under the Rose I will whisper that I am of opinion, I could have manag'd it somewhat cheaper, however if they are pleas'd we must be contented. I cannot answer for either of the Pruning knives, but you have two for the Price of one. the Twine is out of the same piece I choose for myself the Drawback on it and the Sugar you shall have upon Credit for as you had last year, tho' I never like it as the Quantity was too small to pay the Expence of a Debenture. Six hhds of your Tobacco are still unsold, I am in treaty for some of them

whatever you may think of the Proceeds I wou'd give Fifty Pounds out of my own Pocket, if it was in my Power to return to all my correspondents as good sales as yours will be, I am waiting to Pick up a Glasgow Bill for M'Call. but I wou'd wish to puzzle this Chap; who had the impudence to write me a very impertinent Letter relative to a Bill Col° Taylor drew on me, intimating that Col° T.. had inform'd him of such a Bill being drawn, and as it was probable I could not Pay it, he wou'd take it up for Col° Taylor's honour this was the more impertinent as in all the Dutch Duty, my Credit has been unsullied, and this Chap has been notoriously suspected, I shou'd be glad you wou'd find out, and inform me whether Col° T.. ever wrote anything to M'Call to warrant such a Letter from him to me. —— Having never heard from you since Bayton arriv'd I do not know whether Mr Smith ever has Paid you the Ballance of the money he had, therefore having Paid a Bill of his to Dobbie for £109..9..7 and having not been able to sell as much of his Tob° as wou'd pay the Freight. I was oblig'd in Prudence to Protest his Draft on me for £120..10..8. at 30 days, which he never thought Proper to advise me of. tho' I have repeatedly wrote to most of my Correspondents Particularly the Squire of the exceeding tickliehness of the times here, and that it was impossible for me to advance money. yet he among the rest have drawn more liberally than usual, the consequence they must abide by, as they cannot ~~by~~

be real friends who endeavor to push me at such a critical time . . . Mr. J. B. . . ll. has been oblig'd to solicit a Letter of Licence from his Creditors, and is to send immidiately his Son in Law P. Lee and a Clerk to Maryland to collect his Debts, some of the Creditors have agreed, others have not, the issue is not yet known, but you may be sure 'twill not be very good, four or five others follow most confoundidly and I think some must inevitably fall before the Summer is at an end, From these circumstances you can easily Judge of our situation; therefore it will be uncommonly kind in you to remit me every shilling of mine you can as fast as Possible; and as much as in you lyes, prevent all Bills from being drawn on me, Col. Taylor has a right to draw and so has Rich.d Hall & Co. whose Business is directed by Rodham Kenner Esq.r your Uncle, if their drawing can be delay'd till the fall 'twill be a great advantage to me, and it may be in your Power to Postpone it, but when they do, if you have rec.d any money for me, it will be the best mode to buy their Bills, As for Col.o Taylor I shall rely on his friendship to spare me as much as Possible, You will hear that Mr. Lancaster the eleventh Partner, is to leave the House of Slyngsman Lancaster & Co. how the Business of the Co. will hereafter be manag'd time must show, you have never mention'd the final result of your conference with Mr. Lloyd, relative to me, but I conjecture, they were not very favorable, as soon after he return'd to Wye, he wrote me a very short Letter, covering a Remitance

for the Ballance, and a few Pounds over what was due me, He did not write for any Goods, and I suppose he means our correspondence is to end, However I have wrote him two or three civil Letters since, and his Brother here seems much more cordial than he was so stands the Business at Present — Should it so happen that there is more Tob.o for me than Rayson can bring Dobbie & Cannaby will I suppose both take in on Liberty at once, in which case you may by applying early get what room you want, should Triplett & Thornton or either of the Vessels want further Cargoe from me, I shall expect they will send me Certificates with their Invoices from you of their having given the Proper Security on my plan, and even then, without punctuality in Remitting for what they have had, I cannot ship any more, I do not know when Greig will sail as he has not yet taken in any Goods, Pray write to me by all opportunitys and I remain &c

London 4 March. 1773.

Above is a copy of mine to Dobbie to which he is liable to refer — tho' Rayson has left me above a month, from the continual contrary winds he has not been able to get farther than Portsmouth, (over) but as the wind is at last come fair I suppose he will this day, proceed on his voyage — Such fortune is common

23 Feb 1771

home, therefore the less it becomes — every thing on my part was done to have the Liberty with you a month before the other Ships; but when the heavens conspire against one 'tis in vain to contend — after all I hope you will find little difficulty in getting him loaded this year, as y^r crops are so large & the number of Ships from this Port will certainly be less to Virg^a than last year. The 27th Ult^o I rec^d y^r favor of Decr 30th. The vequery of Inspectors & Overseers has been long wident to me & I have on several occasions pointed them out without receiving any thanks for it — 'tis frequently the case that we find one hhd shipd for another, but more frequently the Inspectors note, or list for 1 or 200 ℔ more than ever was in the hhd; a palpable instance has occurd last year, I mean 1 hhd shipd in 1770, in name of I. A. Walking Jone crop from Nomany shipd by Col. Phil: this I gave him the earliest advice of & in Rayson a Tcbo of the Squires that by the inspectors manifest Wt. weigh 1624 ℔ it only weighd here 1236. near 200 ℔ difference; it is often the case that the manifest is 90 — 100 — 150 or 200 ℔ more than the weight burnt on the Cask — Your own wise observation must easily discover how this villainy arises & the remedy is quite plain, but where is the use of pointing it out to a Legislature that will never apply it. Many of y^r hhds that Walker brot last home, I saw myself when landed, had a great deal of old refuse fodder & straw, mixd promiscuously with the Tob^o.

Your last Tob^o is mostly sold, That from Colchester was I believe in general y^r own, that from the Falls I doubt much, being of a total diff^t quality from the rest — indeed this is a vile Warehouse & will never be better with the same Inspectors. ——

Colchester & Hunting Creek are the only two good warehouses I know on Potomac which must be totally owing to the Inspectors:

The difference between the Virg.a & the landing weight there on Potomac & Rapp: Tob.o is generally 60 & 70 to 100 lbs. that on York, is from 30 to 40 lbs. In my situation I cannot much discommend the renting my Estate, provided the term is short & the tenant very strictly bound relative to waste in the Land & care of the Negroes &c; but in case of Children as with Our Nephews Tho.s & Richd. H. I think it totally unwarrantable — Had their father acted on the same principle, I wonder, what estate they wd. now have to rent — I cannot help being warm from the unpleasing reflections this subject creates; therefore will say no more, than that, I will endeavor, With less urgent motives than they have, to do my duty to my Family, as well as every other part of the Society. ———

Being Christmas time I can excuse my mistake of your Acct. Curt. relative to the Lott.a tickets — True — Countryman; look at some of my former letters, if they are in being, & you will find I have often said the Virginians will not let us do them Justice openly; — for your satisfaction have sent you inclosed a particular acct. of the Lottery business, which I think you will find plain enough — Now by way of Secret, you, Thd. fairly bear the loss of all the blanks last year as it was but by express order on my sole acct., & the two prize tickets were but also by express order on my Joint Acct but Stuart being here I insisted, as you had been often joint adventurers, that the three tickets blanks & prizes shd. be clubed — this, after a Dam, or two; he agreed to; so ends their business. ———

you have a Copy of J. Carrs Acc.t inclosed if you think it necessary big you will call in Gen.l G. to y.r assistance, from this copy you may issue the writ & before it can come to tryal you shall have a proved Acc.t ready for the Jury. D. Mure's Goods are consigned to you, if he does not give satisfactory security you can have no difficulty in selling them to advantage as I wrote with them, since many merch.ts on Rap.k will not have the goods shipd from hence this year which they expect particularly Mills & C.o, Garnett & C.o M. Smith & many others. As soon as they arrive will be the moment to sell to advantage before they are landed; if y.r convenancy will not admit of looking into this business, leave to employ a proper person to do it; but pray be particular in getting the Security from H. Mure & Triplett & Thornton as well as urging them to remit reasonably; at the same time let them know I am

[illegible]

not so solicitous of business as to undertake that which may ruin me. M. Smith wants goods, but I don't find he has given Security, without which, I cannot ship them. W. Carr has not remitted fully, nor has Hopkins ever sent a shilling but the Tob.o on Rapon or wrote me a line since — he is, I am sure a sorry chap. — Capt. Blackwell calls for my letters a day before expected which prevents me from enlarging at present, but shall have at you again very shortly. We are all well — Thinks Corbin on Coke, sends his Love, but marriage [illegible] ments engross all his attention. You your D.r Son [illegible] Courtney Love [illegible] Wm. Lee

Province of the Massachusetts Bay March 6th 1773

My Lord

The House of Representatives of this His Majesty's Province beg Leave to congratulate your Lordship that his Majesty has been pleased to appoint you Secretary of State for the Colonies; our past Experience of your favorable Sentiments of his Majesty's Subjects in America, and your noble and generous Interposition in their behalf, at a Time when their Liberties were in Danger, is a prevailing Inducement to address your Lordship at this Time when our Affairs fall more immediately under your Care, in that Department, to which you are appointed; and when new Grievances happen to emplore your repeated Aid.

Your Lordship is well acquainted with the several Acts by which the British Parliament have thought proper, within a few years past, to raise a Revenue in America without our Consent. The many and weighty Reasons against, and Objections, to those Acts, are so well known and understood by your Lordship that we shall not take off your attention to the great affairs of the Nation, by particularly mentioning them at this Time, we only beg Leave to say that, we apprehend, they tend to injure our Commerce and Subvert our liberties and therefore are unjust, impolitic and destructive of the Real Interest of the whole Empire.

The Appropriation of the Revenue arising by those

Acts

The Right Honble Earl of Dartmouth

Acts is very alarming — It is in the first Place to be applied for the necessary Charges of the Administration of Justice and the Support of civil Government, in such Colonies where it shall be judged necessary, and towards further defreying the Expences of defending protecting and securing said Dominions; Now these are the very purposes for which the General Assembly by the Charter is impowered to grant Taxes within this Government; so that by the Act aforesaid the Charter is in Effect made void. In pursuance of this Act his Majesty has been pleased to apply Fifteen hundred pounds Sterling annually out of this Revenue for the Support of the Governor of this Province Independent of the Grant of the General Assembly, And the Governor has inform'd the House the present Sessions, That he has received Information that his Majesty has been pleased to order that Salaries shall be allowed to the Justices of the Superior Court — It is the peculiar Distinction and Glory of the British Constitution that every part of it has a mutual Relation to and Dependence upon the other according to the different Powers and Priviledges respectively belonging to each, herein it excells and differs from unlimited Monarchy, and it is necessary that in all mixt Governments a due Proportion or Balance of Power should be established among the several Branches of the Legislature — Such a Proportion or Balance was first for the Government of this Province by our Charter, and in order to preserve this Balance and consequently the Freedom of the Constitution the Governor ought to be supported by the free Grant of the People. This Measure, could we even admit it to be constitutional, was altogether unnecessary as the Governor has always had a Salary, We presume, he was intirely satisfied with; he has never complained that it was insufficient; It has always been within a Trifle equal to the sum recommended by the Administration at Home; The manner in which the Grant has been made has implyed a Confidence in the Governor, It has been

been generally, if not constantly, the very first Act that has passed in the beginning of the Year, and has looked forward, and was given to enable him to carry on the Affairs of Government: We submit it to your Lordship whether it ought not upon this Occasion to have been considered that all the other Parts of the General Court have a very great Dependence upon the Governor — The Council for their very being, which gives him great Influence with that Board. The Representatives for every Law and proper Act of the Government, for every penny of Money put in or Ordered out of the Treasury, besides he has the Appointment of almost all civil Officers with the Advice of Council, and solely of all military Officers, which must naturally give him great Weight and Influence in both Houses; Does it not then seem reasonable, in order to have a Balance for this great Weight and Influence of the Governor, that he should at least be dependent upon the People for his Support, On the Contrary if our Governors are to depend upon his Majesty for their Support, We then shall have nothing left to depend upon but their being well affected to the Interest of the Government, a very precarious Situation; such a State is greatly inferior to a State of Legal Security, It is the Glory of the British Constitution that it is built on more solid Foundations than the Good Intentions of Men, the very Consciousness of enjoying the most invaluable Benefits only by the good Will of a Fellow creature must be Grating to every generous Mind. — It has been urged in favour of this Measure that the Parliament makes a Grant to his Majesty of the Civil List for Life. Supposing this to be true, let it be considered, he is the common Father of his People — His Interest and Glory and that of his Royal Progeny are inseperable from the prosperity of his People, and if he should so conduct as to break with his People, he has no Resources left, he has no Asylum to fly to for Protection and Support, and therefore is abundantly more dependent upon his People than any of his Governors. Can this be the Case with the Governor of a Province whose Connection and

continuance

Continuance with the People over whom he presides is so very precarious and uncertain and of whom, it is generally to be remarked that neither the Prosperity nor Adversity of the People affect his Interest after he has once left them, for if an Administration should be appointed whose measures were inimical to our Constitution and the Governor in Consequence of pursuing such Measures, should so disaffect the People that it would neither be safe for him, nor for the Welfare of the People, that he should be continued at the Head of the Government, might he not expect a secure Retreat and depend upon being well provided for during the Residue of his Days?

It must be apparent to your Lordship that while our Judges hold their Commissions only during Pleasure, if they are to receive their Support from the Crown, independent of the free Grants of the People, they will be dependent on the Crown both for their Places and their Support, and we would Submit it to your Lordships Consideration, whether this is not a Situation, that no Man properly impressed with a Sense of human Depravity, and who has a due Regard to Justice, would chuse to be in? In such a Case what Decisions must the People expect when the Dispute lies between Prerogative and Privilege? and may it not probably happen that in some future Time the Principles of Equity may be subverted even on the Bench of Justice, and the People deprived of their Happiness and Security — The Judges at Home are as independent as possible both on the Prince and the People, the greatest Care seems to have been taken to establish an Impartiality in their Decisions not only between Subject and Subject, but between the Crown and the Subject, Had the present Establishment and Appointment of our Judges been attended to, we conceive such an Order would not have passed?

The House have passed upon and forwarded a humble Petition to his Majesty relative to these Important matters, which will be delivered you by Dr. Franklin and we beseech your Lordship to patronise the same.

Revenu

Revenue Officers are needlessly multiplied in the Colonies, the Appointment of a Board of Commissioners to reside in America is looked upon as a very dangerous Innovation, so far from facilitating Trade it has greatly embarrassed it, these Officers are invested by their Commissions with Powers unconstitutional, and destructive of that Security we have a Right to enjoy — Fleets and Armies are posted in the Province for no other apparent Purpose than to protect these Officers and to carry the Revenue Acts into Execution.

The enormous Extension of the Powers of Courts of Admiralty in America is an intollerable Grievance, as it deprives the Subject in a great measure of their inestimable Right of Tryal by Juries.

Moreover The Act passed the last Session of Parliament, intitled, An Act for the better preserving his Majesty's Dock Yards, Magazines, Ships, Ammunition and Stores, is, we apprehend a measure repugnant to Justice, highly derogatory to our Rights, and shakes the very Foundation of our Constitution, by not only depriving the American Subjects of the very important Right of Juries from the Vicinage, but Subject them to be transported from their Friends and Neighbours to be tried in a distant Country, beyond the Seas in any County in Great Britain that his Majesty shall please to direct, whenever they shall be suspected or pretended to be suspected, of being concerned in burning or otherways destroying any Boat or Vessel or any materials for Building, or any Naval or Victualling Stores &c belonging to his Majesty.

We cannot refrain from expressing our strongest Appre-=hensions that the Instructions which have of late been given to the Governor by the Ministry, if persisted in will intirely destroy our Liberties and subvert our happy Constitution: In pursuance of Instructions the Garrison of our principal Fortress, Castle William has been with drawn, and a Garrison of his Majesty's Regular Troops, over whom the Governor has declared he has no Controul, placed in their Stead, by this means the Governor

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has no longer that Command of that Fortress which he is vested with by the Royal Charter. Upon this Occasion we would refer it to your Lordships Consideration, whether the Establishment of the Office and Power of a Military Commander in Chief, not subordinate to, but independent of & uncontrould by and in some Instances superceding the Power and Authority already granted to the Governors and Captains General of the Provinces, with a Jurisdiction extending over the whole Continent of America, is not Repugnant to Law & to the principles of Prudence & sound Policy, and must not be very Alarming to all who have any Regard for the Liberties of the Constitution either of Great Britain or of the Colonies.

By Virtue of Instructions, the honourable his Majesty's Council are forbid to meet and transact matters of a publick Concern, as a Council of Advice to the Governor, unless called by the Governor, and if they should so meet at any Time the Governor is ordered to Negative them at the next Election of Councellors.

Notwithstanding the General Court are by the Charter fully authorized and impowered to impose and Levy proportionable & reasonable Rates and Taxes upon the Estates and Persons of all and every the Proprietors and Inhabitants of the Province, Yet the Governor has been Instructed not to give his Consent to any Law or Laws, by which the Commissioners or any person Imployed in the Kings Service, whose Offices have no peculiar Relation to this Province, shall be liable to pay Taxes during their Residence here, for such Salaries or allowances, as do not issue out of any Monies granted by the Legislature of this Province, This we conceive is Repugnant to the priviledge granted by Charter which makes the general Court the only proper Judges who are to be exempted from Taxes.

By Instruction also the Governor is forbid to give his Consent upon any pretence whatever to any Vote or Order for the payment of any Salary or allowance to any person or persons appointed to negotiate the affairs of the Province in Great Britain other than such as shall be thereunto appointed by an Act of the whole

Legislature

Legislature, or by a Vote of the House of Representatives; to which Vote the Governor and Council respectively have given their Concurrence, of what Service can such an Agent be to this Province? especially while Matters that so nearly affect the very Fundamentals of the Constitution are in dispute? for if he must receive his Instructions from all the Branches of the Legislature, as may and undoubtedly will be insisted on, can it be expected they will agree in a Set of Instructions in our present critical Situation: If it should be said that either Branch would have a Right to instruct the Agent seperately, yet it may happen, especially if the Agent is equally obliged to pursue his Instructions from each Branch, that in the most important matters the Instructions will be various and contradictory which must totally deprive us of any Benefit from his Agency in all such Cases, in short it is defeating us of every valuable Purpose, as we conceive, that might accrue to the Province by an Agent at the Court of [illegible]ain: Moreover with such Agent, under the direction of the three Branches, will it not be utterly impracticable for the Assembly ever to lay before their Sovereign their Complaints against the corrupt and arbitrary Administration of a Governor? Self Defence My Lord, whether it Regards Individuals or Bodys of Men is the first Law of Nature, the Right of Defence includes a Right to all the means requisite and proper for that Defence and consequently a Right to appoint and support their own Defender, It must therefore from the foregoing Observations appear that the House has, more especially when their dearest Rights are at Stake, a clear and just right to appoint an A[illegible] for themselves without the Concurrence of the Governor.

We beg your Lordship's candid attention to the unhappy Circumstances of the Province, and hope the Representation we have made of our Grievances will meet with a favorable Consideration — The Colonies are far from being insensible of their Happiness in being connected with the Mother Country and of the mutual Benefits derived from it; and we shall at all Times esteem it our Glory to cultivate

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as far as our Influence may extend the warmest Sentiments of Loyalty and affection to his Majesty, and to promote a happy Union and Harmony between the Subjects of Great Britain and those of the Colonies; We are greatly aggrieved; We think it our indispensible duty to point out to your Lordship our Grievances; We have frequently done it heretofore to Administration; We have failed of Success, instead of being relieved, our grievances have been increased, Our Constituents are universally and justly alarmed and filled with anxious Concern at the present aspect of their affairs — We now therefore apply to your Lordship as one who has, we presume, a disinterested Regard to the Welfare and Prosperity of all parts the Kings Dominions, and beseech you to employ your great Influence in his Majesty's Councils, that our Charter Rights may be restored, that our invaluable Liberties as Subjects may be secured, and that the several Acts of Parliament made for the purpose of raising a Revenue in America may be repealed. In a Word, all that is desired by the People of this Province, is, that they may be restored to their original Standing, and all Controversy between both Countries may thus cease and determine.

In the Name & by Order of
the House of Representatives
I am with Strict Truth,
My Lord,
Your Lordships
Most Obedient humble Servant
Thomas Cushing Speaker

1773

Province of the Massachusetts Bay

To the Kings most Excellent Majesty

The Petition of the Representatives of said Province, sitting in General Assembly, the Sixth of March 1773.

Most humbly Sheweth

That this your Majesty's Province or Colony was originally settled under a Grant and Charter from your Royal Predecessor King Charles the First, without the least Charge to the Nation, but at their own very great Expence of Treasure; and was defended by them with much Effusion of their Blood.

That through the indulgent Smiles of Heaven, they were at length prospered in their Settlement of a howling Wilderness, before inhabited by Savage Beasts, and to the Disgrace of human Nature, Men not less Savage and cruel.

That by the Royal Charter aforesaid, they and their Posterity were to have and enjoy all Liberties of free and natural Subjects born within the Realm, to all Intents Purposes and Constructions whatever; and were vested with full power of making and executing their own Laws, not repugnant but, as nearly as conveniently might be, agreable to the Laws Statutes and Constitution of England, for the well ordering and governing the Colony. And under good and wholesome Laws by them accordingly made, they lived quiet and peaceable Lives, we trust in all Godliness and Honesty.

That in an evil time, through false and malicious Suggestions of wicked and designing Men, this Charter, unjustly

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as we conceive and so declared in Parliament after the happy Revolution, was decreed to be forfeited in the Reign of King Charles the Second.

That King William and Queen Mary of glorious Memory granted another Charter whereby the same Liberties of natural born Subjects and Powers of Legislation were expressly restored; Their Majesties reserving to themselves the Appointments of the Governor of the Province the Lieutenant Governor the Secretary and a Judge of Vice Admiralty, and no other Officer; and the General Assembly have the full Power and Authority of raising reasonable and proportionable Assessments Rates and Taxes, on all and every Inhabitant and Proprietor for the Support of the whole Government of the Province as well as for its Defence.

That nevertheless the Parliament of Great Britain in which your Subjects here are not and cannot be represented hath exercised a power of raising a Revenue within the Province for the purposes aforesaid, to the great Grief and Distress of your Majesty's people, and we conceive, in Repugnance of the Royal Charters aforesaid.

That your Majesties Governor in the Province and other Officers have always been supported honorably, by the Grants and Acts of the General Assembly according to the Ability of the people and the Dignity of their several Stations; until lately your Majesty has been pleased to order Salaries to be paid to some of them, independent thereof, contrary to invariable Usage in the Province from the Beginning.

That your Petitioners did, at the last Session of this Assembly, make their humble Supplication to your Majesty, praying the Interposition of your Royal Clemency for the

Redress

Redress of these Grievances; but we know not whether our Petition was ever laid before your Majesty.

That the Dependence of the Judges of the Land upon the Crown for their Support is a very material Alteration of the said Royal Charter; and especially while they hold their Commissions also during pleasure, tends to a partial Administration of Justice, and endangers the Lives Liberties and Properties of your Majesties loyal Subjects in the Province.

That the Necessity of a most impartial Administration of Justice appears to be the full Sense of the British Parliament and Nation, in that, those who are appointed by your Majesty to hold the Scales are by the Wisdom of Parliament set as free as possible from an undue Byas of any kind whatever. And your Majesty at the beginning of your Reign was pleas'd to recommend it to Parliament, and accordingly an Act passed providing that their Commissions should not terminate even at the Demise of the King.

That the Royal Influence thus exerted for the Good of your People, appears to your petitioners, to be one of the most striking Instances of Justice and Clemency. But while your Subjects in Great Britain are thus secured by every Method that human Prudence can devise, in an impartial Administration of Justice, your unhappy Subjects in this Province especially at so great a Distance from the Throne are expos'd to an Arbitrary rule and the perversion of Law and Justice by Judges absolutely dependent for their Commissions and Support.

We fly therefore to your Majesty for Protection and most humbly pray that in your Royal Wisdom and Goodness you would be pleas'd to relieve the Anxiety and Distress of your Subjects in the Province, by restoring the Governor and

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the Judges to the Footing upon which they were originally placed by the Royal Charter, and that the Rights and Liberties therein conceded upon the Word and promise of your Majesties Royal Predecessors may be faithfully observed.

And Your Majestys Petitioners as in Duty bound shall ever exert themselves to the utmost in Support of your Royal Person Family Crown and Dignity.

In the Name and by the Order
of the House of Representatives

Thomas Cushing Speaker

[illegible] of y^r Majesty's Subjects in America are & have ever been
more loyal to y^r Majesty's government & settled by ye Rules
& the Common Laws of this Land is the best right of
Majesty's Subject throughout all y^r Majesty's Dominions
Among the most antient & valued of these Laws is the
Privilege of not being put upon his trial in capital Cases
but by Bill found by the grand Jury of this County, nor of
being tried but by a Jury of Vicinage. This mode of Trial
has been an essential part of those Laws & Customs, which
Will is solemnly bound in y^r Coronation Oath to give
to his Subjects.

infinite grief & apprehension of y^r Majesty's
[illegible] seen a commission issued under
the great seal of England for the purpose of bringing the
Flagitious Offenders concerned in Insults of y^r Majesty's
Ship Gaspee to the Usual Scene of Punishment,
Commission forms a precedent for Invasion all your
Majesty's Subjects in America, of every privilege. How
[illegible] the trial prescribed by the Common Law
to Subjects when to a mode of trial so informal, rigorous
& oppressive that it may be made an instrument of
the greatest injustice & the most cruel oppression.

Capitaine Jones Capitt. Ven. Off. Sch. dd. 8br. Mall. Zl. Coquantes &c
Cuttes Gre a Rebellionem dein adde Aq. flor. aurant. Zl. ß)

Sundry Advertisements
Rolling Wagons.

March 15, 1773.

ROLLING WAGGONS.

A Committee of the Honourable Houſe of Commons having propoſed an Encouragement to Rolling Carts and Waggons * for making ſmooth Roads, Mr. *Sharp* began working theſe Waggons in *Northamptonſhire*,† early in the laſt Year, as well for the Purpoſe of trying what the Effect would be on the Face of Roads, as for aſcertaining the proper Conſtruction of the Carriages, and the Strength neceſſary for the different Parts of them.

In dry Seaſons it was found they went ſmooth and eaſy, by not falling into the Ruts and Holes formed by narrower Wheels; and in rainy Seaſons they continued paſſing, even after the narrow Wheel Waggons were ſunk up to the Bed, and could no longer be uſed.

During the Courſe of the Summer they made a few Journeys to *Northampton*, one to *Coventry*, and about thirty to *Bedford*, as well as, more frequent ſhorter Journeys through the deepeſt Roads in the Neighbourhood of *Buckingham* and *Stoney Stratford*, loaded as Waggons, uſually are in Countries where the Roads are ſo bad.

And on the 3d of *November* laſt they began to be employed on the *Northampton* Road, with ſuch heavy Loads of Timber and Coals, as muſt inevitably have deſtroyed the Road from End to End, had the ſame been carried on any other Wheels; whereas on the contrary, the Road was ſo much improved, during this Paſſage, and the Advantages of Rollers rendered ſo apparent, that Mr. *Sharp* thought it right to inſert the following Advertiſements in all the *London* Papers.

Advertiſement about the 1ſt of *December*, 1772.

ROLLING WAGGONS.

"THE Nobility, Members of Parliament, and others, who may "think it worth their while to view the Effects of Rolling "Waggons upon Turnpike Roads, may have Demonſtration of their "Utility, for twelve Miles, upon the Road from *Stoney Stratford* to "*Northampton*, where the Carriages are now working; and their good "Effects upon Private Roads, that are not Turnpike, may be ſeen "on the Road from *Old Stratford* to *Dunſanger*. Rolling Carts and "Waggons may be had of Mr. *Sharp*, No. 15, *Leadenhall-ſtreet*, "*London*."

February

* See the Votes 26 *March*, 1772, Page 187, And alſo 3 *June*, 1772, Page 719.

† The Carts had been working in *Northamptonſhire* for three or four Years before, with very good Effect and Advantage.

February 1, 1773. About this Time, ſome unfavourable, 'though unjuſt Reports, having been ſpread about theſe Carriages, Mr. *Sharp* went down and examined the Road from End to End, which occaſioned the following Advertiſement.

February 3, 1773.

ROLLING WAGGONS.

" THE Nobility, Members of Parliament, and others, who may " think it worth their while to view the Effects of Rolling " Waggons upon Turnpike Roads, may have Proof of their Utility " for thirteen Miles upon the Road from *Stoney Stratford* to *North-* " *ampton*; and their good Effects upon Private Roads, that are not " Turnpike, may be ſeen on the Road from *Old Stradford* to *Dun-* " *ſanger*. Compare theſe Roads with any other in that *Country*, " though the Seaſon has been unfavourable, though narrow Wheels " are much uſed upon this Road, and though the Commiſſioners and " their Surveyors ſuppoſed it would have been deſtroyed by the Car- " riage of ſuch heavy Loads of Timber in the Winter Months, yet " there remains ſo fine and flat a Quarter upon the Face of the " Roads, between the deep Ruts and Ridges, formed by narrow " Wheels, that the Contraſt is ſtriking, the Path being ſmooth and " clean, even for Foot Paſſengers. The Tolls collected laſt Month, " are increaſed above a third more than *January* 1772; and, it is " ſtrictly true, that the heavier theſe Rollers are laden, the better for " the Road."

" For a further Account of this Matter, ſee the St. *James's Chronicle*, " 2d of *January* laſt."

" Rolling Carts and Waggons may be had of Mr. SHARP, No. 15, " *Leadenhall-ſtreet*, *London*."

And about the 20th of *February*, 1773, the ſame Advertiſement was repeated, with the following N. B.

February 16, 1773.

" *N. B.* During the late Falls of Snow, the Waggons have kept " their regular Stages without Intermiſſion, and loaded as uſual."

March 1, 1773.

At this Time the Carriage of the Timber to *Northampton* and *Bedford*, in all about One Hundred and Fifty Load, being nearly finiſhed, the following Advertiſement was inſerted to prevent Diſappointment to thoſe Perſons who might view the Road a few Months hence, when the good Effect of the Rollers may probably be effaced by narrow Wheels.

March 8, 1773.

ROLLING WAGGONS.

" WHEREAS the Public have been requeſted, by frequent " Advertiſements, to view the Effects of Rolling Waggons, " for thirteen Miles on the Road from *Stoney-Stratford* to *Northampton*, ' where

" where they have been conſtantly paſſing ſince the 3d of *November*
" laſt, they are now informed, that a few Loads only remain to be
" carried by Rollers on that Road, after which it is ſuppoſed the
" narrow wheeled Waggons will in a ſhort Time nearly reduce it to
" the State it was in before the Rollers began working."

" *N. B.* The Road through *Dunſanger* to *Stoney-Stratford*, being
" about three Miles, uſually deemed the worſt Part of the Road to
" *Buckingham*, is now rolled ſmooth, and will continue to be kept ſo
" ſome Time longer.

" Rolling Carts and Waggons may be had of Mr. SHARP, No. 15,
" *Leadenhall-ſtreet, London.*"

(Copy.)

Robert Carter Nicholas Esq.r

Dear Sir, London Mar: 20th 1773.

I have rec.d your favor by Capt. Robertson of Sept. 10. covering your accounts Curt. with the Estate and with me; also y.r Draft on Messrs. J. Norton and Son for £185..18..4. & y.rs of Dec.r 1.st & Capt. Cocks. over y.r R. Hansons dft: on Messrs. Lydes for £7..14..4. Both the above Bills are good & I dare say the acct. Curt. are very just.

Mr. Paradise had all y.r information that was requisite and believe now Comprehends the Estates acct. fully. — The Copy of a rec.t sent to you by Col Henry Lee does not in the least Clear up the Bal: that appears due by Col: Ludwells Books; as by them, he has regular credit for that Identical Sum. — But no mention is made of any such Bill on Mr. Rufell. — the Extract of the letter cannot refer to the Bill. — Col Lee must either have a rec.t for this Bill, or Certainly Mr. Rufells acct. Curt. will show if he ever paid such Bill to Col: Ludwell or his order — If neither of these vouchers can appear, it must be presumed that the Bal: is still due from Col: Lee. — I am sorry my Countrymen are so inattentive to improvements as not to venture a little application in the attempt to make Silk. as for the Expence, or risk of loss, 'tis a trifling to mention; as common prudence must direct the way to be made in a small way. — In y.r last you mention the large Ballance due to me by Mr. Wilkinson's acct. I hope

Mr. Williamson can, & I shd be glad he would: If it is not too much trouble I shall be greatly obliged to you for attending to the foregoing State and if I am wrong in any part, freely set me, right ——.
I have not taken into the acct the superior value of Mr. P. Tobac° to mine, wch has been the case for many years past — nor the demand on me for goods from hence to the value of £70, or 80. for my Estate; whereas Mr. P. tells me, none are wanted for his Estate and I know my Invoice last year exceeded his, in amount. —— I return you my thanks for the Trouble you have had in getting the Deeds recorded. —— you will observe Mr. Lee has been privily examined before the Lord Mayor wch is always ye practice when lands in America are held by a Man and his Wife residing here; some instances I have known where ye lands were in Virg:a. However If you deem what has been done sufficient, the mode you propose will certainly be so, & as we live in London wch is a City and County of itself, governed by its own Laws, in part, & its own Magistrates or Justices, who are the Aldermen, I now enclose you a list of the present Aldermen, that all their names may be inserted in the Commission, for fear of accidents, unless you can send the Com: blank to be filled up here, wch would be more eligible & the sooner this is done the better. I hope the Proof was made in time. I am convinced of the propriety of what you say

he will ~~expect~~ himself to be more successfull in his Collections this year than he was the last, or else he will leave me to live on Air. —— Give me leave to State the remittances last year both to mr Paradise and myself. Viz:

Remitted by you to mr Paradise in Sundry Bills in 1772. £669..14..6
13 Hhds Tobacco valued at £10. ₲ Hhd. ——— 130..0..0
799..14..6

Deduct £79..0..5 p. Cur.y mr P. share of the Bal. due him by you to the Estate @ 25 ₲ Ct Exchange. 63..10..9

Leaves the years remittance to mr P. for his p.t of y.e Estate —736..3..9

Remitted to W. L. by you in Sundry Bills in 1772. ——— £490..12..8
Ditto 23 Hhds Tobo. valued at £10. ₲ Hhd. ——— 230..——
£720..12..8

Deduct W. L share of the Ball: due to y.e Estate £229..8..5
his allowance from mr P. on acct of Powhatan mill wch was deducted out of his share of the Bal: due to the Estate £150.. also £109..3..5. value of W. Lee's horses sold Octr 1771. & payable by Bond a yr. 1772 ——— 390..17..7
these three Sums £408..11..11. Cur.y is into Ster.g @ 25 ₲ Ct Exchange.

Leaves the years remittance to W. L. for his p.t of y.e Estate 329..15..1

Difference — or what was remitted to mr P. than to W. L. 406..8..8
£736..3..9

Now how it has happen'd yt one half of the Estate, has produced more than twice the value of the other half I cannot Account, perhaps

ralative to the Houses in Wm.burg and therefore was always surprized at the high value they were estimated at. —— If you will be so good as to endeavor to sell them singly or all, at the apprais'd value, I shall be greatly obliged to you; and when they are sold, Mr. Lee and myself will join in any Conveyance the purchaser chooses — in the mean time he will certainly be satisfied with your security — & for your indemnification you will not only have this letter from me. But you may, if you please, keep y.r purchase money in your own hands, 'till the proper Conveyances get over, of wch I suppose the Purchaser will send me a copy. — Capt. Tho.s Lilly owes me by note with interest from Decr 31. 1771. £18..2..10. and the Revd Ja.s Ogilvie by Bond £8..6. with int.t from Feby 4. 1772. —— Both these Sums are by agreem.t to be p.d me in London free of all deductions, as I lent the same to them when they were here and in much want. Tho they both promised immediate remittance as soon as they got to Virg.a they have not even been civil enough to write to me a single line. I therefore request you will be kind enough to demand the same and if they do not pay, that you will direct Suits to be brought for the same, as I now send you the Bond, and Note. — Capt. Lilly I am told lives in york, and Mr. Ogilvie married a daughter of Mr. Thacker Merch.t in Richmond Town. — Capt. Esten brings you a set of Glasses for your Salts wch I must beg y.r Acceptance of; he also has a

few of our late publications for you and I shd have sent the Magazine but take it for granted they go from Mr Norton. Be pleased to send me the last edition of the King's Laws & the subsequent acts. & on all future Sessions I shall be much obliged to you for the acts passed & the Journals of the House of Burgesses. — Capt Outram brings the annual goods for my estate & is to have my Tobo therefore please to direct Mr Wilkinson to ship my whole crop in Capt Outrams Ship the Liberty. I shall be much pleased if Mr W. attends to yr directions in all the Swamps into meadows. Mrs Lee and myself are both much ~~obliged to you~~ you for your kind attention to our affairs & with our best wishes for Mrs N. & all your family

Jam Dr &c

P. S. you'll please not to say any thing more about Col: Henry Lee's debt 'till further advised.

My Dr Brothers.

Above is a Copy of my last to Mr Nicholas for my government. The state of last years remittance is more accurate in this than in that sent to you.

I am my most affect.

William Lee.

Virginia

To

Mess. Richard Munford
& Francis Wightfoot Lee

W. L. March 20. 1798
Copy of Let. to
Mr. Nicholas about
his Estate.

Sir, Chantilly in Verg.a the 21st of April 1778

I should not have been silent so long if any important consideration had made writing necessary. On this quarter, much alarm has been created by a new court of criminal jurisdiction, it is said, has been lately opened in the Rhode Island. Neither the power, nor the object of this court, have been perfectly understood here; but in general we have been informed that it was designed to put in execution the dangerous advice of the two houses of Parliament in 1769 to seize obnoxious Americans and convey them to Britain for trial. When our Assembly met lately, they were furnished with Proper documents concerning this business. But they have now adopted a measure which from the beginning of the present dispute they should have fixed on, as leading to that union, and perfect understanding of each other, on which the political salvation of America so eminently depends. I have enclosed you that part of our Journal which relates to this matter. You will observe Sir, that although leave was given to a long and thorough union of councils, yet our language is so contrived, as to puzzle the Enemies of America, from wringing this transaction into that web of treason, whither they have framed every honest effort to deliver ourselves from their tyrannous devices for divesting us of our constitutional liberty. I sincerely hope that every

Colony on the Continent will adopt these common

correspondence and enquiry. I should be much
obliged with your sentiments concerning Rhode
Island Court, and with the knowledge you have of
the powers and objects

I am with singular esteem
Your most obedient humble servant

To John Dickenson Esq[r]
in Philadelphia

Richard Henry Lee

Sir Boston April 10 1773 (71)

Your Letter to me of the 4th Feb last, I received with singular Pleasure; not only because I had long wished for a correspondence with some Gentleman in Virginia, but more particularly because I had frequently heard of your Character and Merit, as a warm Advocate for Virtue and Liberty.

I have often thought it a Misfortune, or rather a Fault in the Friends of American Independence and Freedom, their not taking Care to open every Channel of Communication. The Colonies are all embarked in the same bottom. The Liberties of all are alike invaded by the same haughty Power: The Conspiracies against their common Rights have indeed existed their brutal Force, or applied their insidious Arts, different in the several Colonies: as they have thought would best serve their Purpose of Oppression and Tyranny. How necessary then is it, that All should be early acquainted with the particular Circumstances of Each, in order that the Wisdom & Strength of the whole may be employed upon every proper Occasion. We have heard of Bloodshed & even civil War in our Sister Colony North Carolina; And how strange is it, that that the best Intelligence we have had of that

this tragical Scene, has been brought to us from England!

This Province, and this Town especially, has suffered a great Share of ministerial Wrath and Insolence: But God be thanked, there is, I trust, a Spirit prevailing, which will never submit to Slavery. The Compliance of New York in making annual Provision for a military Force, designed to carry the Acts of Tyranny into Execution, the Timidity of some Colonies and the Silence of others is discouraging: But the active Vigilance, the manly Generosity and the steady Perseverance of Virginia and South Carolina, give us Reason to hope, that the Fire of true Patriotism will at length spread throughout the Continent; the Consequence of which must be the Acquisition of all we wish for.

The Friends of Liberty in this Town lately made a successful Attempt to obtain the explicit political Sentiments of a great Number of the Towns in this Province; and the Number is daily increasing. The very Attempt was alarming to the Advocates; and the happy Effects of it are mortifying to them. I would propose it for your Consideration. Whether the Establishment of Committees

of Correspondence among the several Towns in every Colony, would not tend to promote that General Union, upon which the Security of the whole depends.

The Reception of the Early Patriotick Resolves of the House of Burgesses of Virginia gladdens the Hearts of all who are Friends to Liberty. Our Committee of Correspondence had a special Meeting upon this occasion, and determined immediately to circulate printed Copies of them in every Town in the Province, in order to make them as extensively useful as possible. I am desired by them to assure you of their Veneration for your most ancient Colony, and their unfeigned Esteem for the Gentlemen of your Committee. This indeed is a small Return; I hope you will have the early Concurrence of every Assembly on the Continent. It is a Measure that I think must be attended with great and good Consequences.

Our General Assembly is dissolved; and Writs will soon be issued according to the Charter for a new Assembly to be held on the last Wednesday in May next. I think I may almost assure you there will be a Return of such Members as will be ready cooperate with you in your spirited Measures.

The most common Stride in assuming what may properly be called a Court of Inquisition in America, is sufficient to excite the Indignation even in the Breast of the least capable of feeling. I am expecting an authentick Copy of that Commission, which I shall send to you by the first Opportunity after I shall have received it. The Letter from the late Secretary of State, which possibly you may have seen in the News papers, may be

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be depended upon as genuine. I received it from a Gentleman of the Council in that Colony, who took it from the Original. I wish the Assembly of that little Colony had acted with more firmness than they have done; but as the Court of Enquiry is adjourned, they may possibly have another Tryal.

I have a thousand things to say to you, but am prevented by Want of Time; having had but an hours Notice of this Vessels sailing. I cannot however conclude without assuring you, that a Letter from you as often as your Leisure will admit of it, will lay me under great Obligations. ——

I am in sincere Truth

Your most humble Servt

Samuel Adams

Dem. Docums
Letter to Lee 1773
Public

Richard Henry Lee Esqr

Sir

3 X

I am greatly obliged to you for your favor of the 30th of last Month. The Measure adopted by your Assembly for promoting Correspondance and Harmony with the other Colonies, we certainly very prudent, and I doubt not would be very successful, if every Colony was influenced by the same well directed, and operating Zeal for the Liberty and Happiness of America, that animates the Assembly of Virginia. Some good consequences must will result from your generous attention to the Interest of those Provinces, however inattentive several of them may be to their best Interest — and Glorious — Freedom. As to the Proceedings in Rhode Island, they undoubtedly are the most Treasonable Violation of the Rights of Americans, that could be devised. Some time in last February, I think, I received a Letter from several Gentlemen of that Place who were appointed by their Assembly to answer a Message from the Governor, containing Paragraphs of a Letter to him from Lord Dartmouth. From these it appears, that the Court to be held in Rhode Island was formed "for enquiring into and making Report to his Majesty of all the

Circumstances relative to the attacking, plundering and
burning the Gaspee Schooner" — "delivering the offenders to
the Care & Custody of Rear admiral Montague, or the Comman-
in Chief of his Majesty's Ships in North America for th
time being, to be brought to England to be tried" — "calling upon
General Gage who is to hold himself in Readiness to send
Troops &c" The Paragraph do not give any express Pow
to the Commissioners to arrest and Commit — "his Majes
displeasing," as the Letter says, "in the Case of vigilance
the Civil Magistrates of the Colony, to take the proper
Measures for arresting & committing" &c. Lord Dart
Letter does not mention, whether the proposed Scheme of offence w
committed within the Body of a County, or where the adm
that Jurisdiction, and therefore the intention of Administration
is concealed — Whether the Prisoners
be tried under the 28th of Hen. 8th for an Offence on the Seas, o
the 35th of Hen. 8th for an Offence beyond the Seas. I am
informed the Gaspee was burnt within the Body of a
County: of this being the Fact there is no Reason to
believe the Ministry were ignorant; and as little to
doubt their Resolution being fixed to have the Accus
tried in England, wherever the Gaspee was destroyed.
I am with the sincerest Esteem Sir, Your most obedient
& Richard Henry Lee [illegible] John Dickenson Jan. 18. 1773

Francis Lightfoot Lee Esq.

W. L.

My Dear Bro.

London July 31. 1773.

You have a copy of my last by Bayman of the 2d. Inst. you have now, bill of Lading Invoice &c of y.r Sundries in the Bland, Danby who is to sail in a few days, am.t £9-18-8. to y.r debit, in the cash is the remainder of the mettle buttons which were omitted by a mistake of the Shipwright. The cloak was a mistake it belonged to Triplet & Thornton who had it by y.r Acc.t will have credit for the value &c. £2/. You will have a duplicate of this Invoice to be sent by the craft with y.r goods. I sh.d not have sent y.r Sundries now had there been any prospect of an opp.y to Pato: or Piank.k before the spring. Capt. Danby is to stop first at Hampton, but has promised to send all his goods for Piank.k up as soon as he arrives. Triplet & Thornton have a cargoe of upwards of £800 now.

There is no Lottery ~~this~~ this year. I have the same opinion of m.r Th.s Smith that you have you must remember that 3 y.rs ago I wrote you my opinion of his schemes, which time has now verified to be just. You know I suppose that R. H. L. wrote me June 7. from Menokin that m.r S.'s Schooner could not come in Rappa.n, how then are his bills to be paid, that are now near due.? I esteem m.r S. & would

do any thing in my power to serve him, but impossibilities cannot be expected. I am afraid I ~~can~~ shall not be able to pay a bill of the Squires of £220. who as my first & steady friend, has a right to expect every service of me; but - there are no times for us to find money to advance for any one), as 4 houses here within 12 months, in the Tob.o Trade have become Bankrupts, or put their affairs in the hands of Trustees. Two have stopped this month, Perkins Buchanan & Brown's whose affairs are very bad, & Grant & Bickerton & two more are expected every day. If m.r S.'s Tob.o arrives by the 5.th or 15.th of Sept. for it easily may since at the time you wrote, Capt. Lilly lying at Col. Corbins was advertising for 250 hhds on Liberty, his bills will not go back, but if it does not, I can't help it. If m.r S. will only give you security on his own estate & will confine his buyings to 1000 or £1200 p. Year I shall have no objection, please to confer with him & let me know the issue. £5. p. Ct. is the full as much if not more than H. Muse's Tob.o will bring unless it is much better than it was last year; if he ships the 120 hhds & draws upon it, he shall not be disappointed in his confidence in me, provided I am assured by you or R. H. L. that remittances will be fully made in time for his Cargoe & D. Muse sent p.r Bay soon; for which purpose remember, that Tob.o or bills must be sent from Virg.a in all Oct.r certainly. I wrote to R. H. L. & m.r Nash p. Capt. Mitchell, that it was by no means convenient for me at present to enter in the scheme proposed of keeping a store. I am well satisfied of M.r Nash's abilities.

Mr Johnson is a shuffling ——— Therefore Gray don't be put off by him but see that I suspect it all a finesse ——— if he does not call them, insist on their being shipp'd to me immediately or arrest him without delay. Take care that T. & T. remit duely.

[redacted] I am a good deal uneasy, having shipp'd upwards of three thousand pounds worth of goods for the different stores of Messrs. Trents, Carter & their Partners. The more I saw of the one that was here the less I liked his principles & we hear that they are all very greatly distressed in Virginia & unable to take up their bills that are gone back in their case is not my situation a slippery one? however I shall strongly rely on your diligent exertion, without a moments delay to get the principal partners. Alex.r Trent & Edw.d Carter Esq.rs to join in the security & then see that they remit in time. I must begin to exert more than common attention to these points now, as I return to the most critical period of my Life; having undertaken the execution of the Honorable & respectable Office of Sheriff of London & Middlesex for the ensueing year to which I was elected in the most flattering manner, tho' previously, I exerted every decent means to prevent it. It surely redounds greatly to my credit; but still it is a heavy tax upon any mind when I reflect on the great expence of money & time, neither of which I can easily afford, any inability to advance for the bills of those friends that I wish to serve, & the uncertainty of remittances. You know the anxiety of my temper, when any thing, even of not much consequence

is in doubt, but the general state of Trade is really alarming
& my particular situation you must allow requires more
than common attention & that. I expect every day that an occur-
rence will happen here, that with great propriety may open
the way for the execution of mr Lloyds scheme, if he shd
think any more of it. The young Anderson that is in Maryd.
has had a proper mercantile education & was said to be
sensible; the most so, of any of the Brothers; I only know
him by sight. If you have not done it before, as soon as possible
after rect of this, pray let me know what ships or ship you design to
send out next next year, whether one to Pato. & one to Rapp.k, or one
for both rivers & the best time for them to be in the Country. If
there is no opp.y from Pato. or Rapp.k, the New York Packet or
sent to A. S. at Annapolis, will be a safe conveyance. Send
duplicates as it is a point of some consequence. You will write
me what you think of Jn.o Wilkes's reminding him of the India Handk-
erchiefs he was to return me. Mrs L. I expect will present
you with a Nephew or Niece perhaps both. We are at
present well & wish you all health & happyness as well as
our D.r Sister. I have not heard a great while from my
good Friend Col. Taylor — pray present my best respects to
him & Family & believe me ever & most sincerely yours

William Lee.

Com. & Mss. (1437)

Dear Brother

Philadelphia 14. Aug. 73.

Yours by Capt. Coburn & the piece of Cotton came safe to hand & gave much satisfaction, tis very neat — you have many thanks. —

By this time you have recieved my Letter, by Lawyer Colston & expect an answer by your son with Col Henry Lee in Capt. Coburn — the Col is coming to see his son take his first degree at Princeton College. Our Bro.r is shining before the Livery of London in much applauded Speech, in favor of Mr. Sayre as Sheriff of London & has by his eloquence

gained a great majority of hands in favor of Stephen Sayre Esqr.
Homer, what strange impudent Americans! — do you remember Sayre? He was in Virginia some years ago soliciting Tobacco Commissions & did not behave well. was in partnership w.th DeBerdt &c. —
Arthur gained great applause says an English paper of 19th June. —
By the next opportunity Molly will have an opportunity of judging of Tom's Qualifications — our best Love & Compt.s to yourself & Mrs. Lee conclude this very hasty Epistle of
Your affect.e Bro.r
A. Lee

much love to all our friends & Cousins

W. Shippens Letter
14th August 1773

(1735)

To

Richard Henry Lee Esq.r

at Chantilly in

Virginia

By Capt. Coburn.

(20.4 10.)

Mrs. Shippen Jr
Aug. 14 1773

Francis Lightfoot Lee Esq.r London Sept.r 11.th 1773

Dear Brother

Raysom arrived at Deal the 6.th Inst. his Ships is ups. your Letter by him shall be duly attended to. this goes by Post to catch Greig in the Downs so shall only say as soon as I cans charter a Ships of about 1100 hhds she shall go to James River for the Trents to Load. if they cannot do it, or will not, she will be order'd to Rappahanoc or where ever you please to direct, to load for me or on Liberty as you may find convenient — A ships will be sent from hence for Potomac in all December, this please to communicate to our Brother Richd Henry Lee & settle the plan. I shall write him fully by the first opportunity which shall be very soon. let all my friends know of the Liberty's arrival I am &c.

My Dear Brother. London 10, Sept. 1773.

Above is a copy of mine which you will receive by Greig who is still in the Downs. Since the above I have charter'd a ships of 400 tuns to sail the 10.th Oct.r to James River for the Trents to load; if they cannot, or will not, load her She will go to Rapp.k for you to fill her up either for me or on Liberty, therefore it will not be prudent in you to put any Tob.o on board Mitchell or Cockerill after you receive this, 'till you hear from Mr P. Trent who will send an express to you, as soon as my ship the Eliza — arrives in James River, to let you know whether he can load her or not & whether he will want you to send any Tob.o for her from Rapp.k. You will be so good as rec.t of this as to write Mr Peter field Trent, Merch.t at Richmond on James River

& the Port of this ship coming in & desire he will let you know whether he can load her not that you may provide accordingly & it may not be amiss to prepare Triplet & Thornton & H. Muse, if th provided their assistance may be wanted. I am in hopes this will get to hand in time to have the whole plan properly settled before the Christmas Gambols begin & you wd let me know by the Packet & every conveyance to G. Britain what the Trents determine, that I may know how to regulate abt sending a ship to Rapk in the Spring, as one will at all events go to Polo: I shall expect to hear from you in answer to this in Jan. next & then let me know who are H. Muses, Triplets, Thorntons securitys, the condition of their bonds, & whether you have got any security for the goods shipd Trents & Companys They are indebted £3157. 12. 2. — If you can pick me up, from Twenty to 50 hhds of all sound Tob.o made by honest planters, so as that we may reasonably expect it to be sound & pretty free from Trash & dirt, I wish you wd. do it, but then it shd be old Tob.o of last years growth, the price not to exceed 15/. ℔ C.t at the Exch.e at Bapl.o & must be shipd from Virg.a by the 1st of next February. The best method of managing this will be to apply to the Merch.ts at H. Hole, pretending you only want a few Hhds for a particular purpose without letting any one know yr design. The L.o side of Rapk Tob.o & low down, in general is much better than the N.o side; tho' our friend Gilbarne will not let me say so to him. Sound Tob.o is not much wanted at Glasgow any time, so that the Scotch factors will be the most likely to supply you. My old Godfather on receiving my last Acct Sales, mounted his Great Horse & rode away so furiously, that I think there is danger of his breaking his neck — My correspondents shd compare my sales, with — Campbells, Hyndmans, & Bells & before they complain, — Mollison & Russell were last year out of the question as the market was full from 3 to 4 £ ℔. Hhd, better when Greig & Page arrived than when Rayson arrived; this year I think my Acct of sales will fully equal theirs, tho' I never saw worse Tob.o than the 83 Hhds already landed chiefly belonging to H. Muse & Triplet & Co — I shall write you again soon, but Love to our D.r Sister, & Comp.ts to Col. Taylor & Family. Farewell

William Lee

Francis Lightfoot Lee Esq.r London Sept.r 18th 1773

My Dear Brother.

Above is a copy of mine which you will receive by Grey who is still in the Downs, Since the above have Chartered a Ship of 300 Hhds to sail the 10th October to James River for the Trents to Load, if they cannot, or will not, load her she will go to Rappahanock, for you to fill her up, either to me or on Liberty, therefore it will not be prudent in you to put any Tobacco on board Mitchell or Cochenille, after you receive this, till you hear from Mr.s P Trent who will send an Express to you, as soon as my ship the Cleve arrives in James River, to let you know whether he can load her or not, and whether he will want you to send any Tobacco for her from Rappahanock.

You will be so good on Receipt of this, as to write Mr.s Peterfield Trents Merch.t Richmond on James River P the Post, of this Ships coming in, and desire he will let you know whether, he can load her, or not, that you may proceed accordingly, and it may not be amiss to prepare Thornton & Hudson Mate provided their assistance may be wanted, I am in hopes this will get to hand in time to have the whole plan properly settled before the Xmas Gambols begin, and you should let me know by the Packet and every conveyance to

Great Britain what the Trents determine, that I may know how to determine about sending a Ship to Rappa. in the Spring, as one will at all events go to Potomac. I shall expect to hear from you in answer to this by January next, and there Let me know who are M. Muse's and Triplett & Thornton's Securitys, the Conditions of their Bond and whether you have not any security for the Good ship. of Trents and Co. They are indebted £315 7.. 12.. 2. —— If you can pick me up from 20 to 30 hhds of all stem'd Tobacco made by honest Planters, so as that we may reasonably expect it to be sound and pretty free from trash and dirt I wish you would do it, but then it should be O. Tob.. of last years growth the price not to exceed 15/ pCt. & the Exchange at 30 pCt. & must be ship'd from Virginia by the last of February. the best method of managing this will be to apply to the Merch.ts at M. Hole pretending you only want a few hhds of stem'd for a particular purpose without letting any one know your design, the S.. side of Rappahanock and low down in general is much better than the N.. side, tho' our friend Gibbons will not let me say so —— Stem'd Tobacco is not much wanted at Glasgow at any time. so that the Scotch factors will be the most likely to supply you. —— My Old Godfather on receiving my last account Sale mounted his great Horse and rode away so furiously that

I

I think there is no danger of his breaking his Neck. —

My correspondents shou'd compare my Sales with Campbells, Hyndmans, Bells &c. before they complain for Mallevans, Ruthels were last year out of the [illegible]tion, as the market was full from 3 to 4 [illegible] better when Greig and Page arrived, tha. when Rayson arrived, this year I think my Sales will equal theirs, tho I never saw worse Tobacco than the 83 hhds already Landed, chiefly belonging to H. Muse and Inglish & Co. I shall write you again soon. Compts &c &c

William Lee

(Original ff. Capt. Dittw, via Rapk)

Francis Lightfoot Lee Esqr.

My Dear Brother. London 1 Oct. 1773.

Inclosed you have a copy of mine of the 18th ult.o by Capt. Curtis who sailed from the Downs 2 or 3 days ago for Rapp.k with Lumber for Pole: ——

The Ship therein mentioned, the Eliza Capt. Brown now carrys this & can't give you a plainer idea of my plan than by inclosing you a copy of the charter Party & the Capts instructions of my letter to Messrs. Alex.r & Peterfield Trent. The latter for our Br. R. H. Lee is at all events to be forwarded to him, the other letters to Messrs. Triplet & Thornton & Hud: Muse you are left often for your perusal, to seal & forward, if the Eliza wh.d load in Rapp.k or if you sh.d want any Tob.o to send round to Ja.s River for her; in either case Mr. John Miller may have some to send. Should it fall to your lot to load the Eliza entirely I wd. not have you hesitate one moment to take in Tob.o on Liberty of consignment, if you apprehend the least difficulty in getting her loaded home. You may if there is occasion, buy what good stemd Tob.o you can get for me at the country cash prices, but it must be all stemd. ——

Pray do not neglect to write to me by the N. York Packet every ship from all the Rivers in Virg.a to any part of this island, what is done with this ship; for if she loads in Ja.s River I suppose it will still be necessary for me to send a ship to Rapp.k as soon as I hear from you as well as my usual ship to ~~the~~ Potomack: Indeed I do not see any great prospect of getting more than 300 hhds a year from Poto: —— y.r crop is landed & proves much worse in quality than ever I knew it, especially the two hhds from the Falls. I hope you will be able to get some good remittances made & if you sh.d want any money for purchasing Stm.d Tob.o please to apply to M.r Nicholas for it. For want of good bills he has not remitted one shilling this year, tho' he writes me he has the money in his hands; & pray desire all my correspondents that you know have a right to draw on me to apply to him for money for their drafts. The letters with this that are seal'd, you will forward as directed, the others you will do with, as the circumstances may require; only let me know what you do. Being in the middle of a strong contested election, for Lord Mayor, where I am obliged to attend all day, as being presiding Officer, I cannot recollect any thing more material to say, so must leave the rest to y.r own discretion.

We have just got M.rs Lee's chair bottomed from Dobbie after a great deal of trouble. We are at present all well, & join in the most affec.t Love to our Dear Sister

I am most sincerely Yours

William Lee

N°38

Richard Henry Lee Esqr

My Dear Brother London 4 Octr 1773

Being extremely taken up with the election of a Lord Mayor for next year, at which I, as Sheriff, preside; it will not be in my power to write so fully as I wd. wish; yr. Letters by Grayson & that since dated in July shall be properly attended to as far as the situation of things will possibly admit of, & shall be particularly answerd by the Potomack ships which I shall dispatch from hence about Christmas. The ships the Eliza Capt. Brown, of 400 tuns I sent out to James River for the Potomack to load there, but if they will not do it they are to send her immediately round to Rapp.k under the direction of our Br. Landaun & surely from Triplet & Thornton, the Muses, S. Hopkins & my other friends on Rapp.k, he may easily load her without any obstruction to the Potomac ships especially as I hope the plan of her loading will be quite settled before the Christmas gambols begin which, I suppose, as usual, shut a door to all business in Westmoreland & Richmond ~~at once~~ for a Month.

That Mess: Garnett & Co. are offended with me I can easily believe; but that you may judge of the true cause, you have inclosed a copy of our whole correspondence. You will see Mr. Garnetts own reason for contradicting the order was Mr. Lee's extreme illness, which I am told was really the case — you will also see my reasons for not sending the goods, were communicated to them by letter of June 8, 1773 long before the rec.t of Mr. Garnetts letter forbiding them. As to my saying to Capt. Livingston or any one else that I wd. not trust them for Goods tho' they had applyed to me, I here declare it to be an absolute falshood. 'Tis really surprising that the Gent: in Virg.a sh.d credit, or pretend to credit, the idle & wicked lyes of Capt.n L. to the prejudice of any one. This Livingston I never spoke to, three times but when he has applyed to me for one favor or another none of which I ever that him worthy of, having always had a very indifferent opinion of him; & could with the utmost security take my oath, that I never in my whole life, mention'd the name of Mr. Lee or Mr. Garnett to him, or in his hearing. This Malice has very possibly arisen from my not giving his Br. last winter a whip to Capt.n —, who is much such another as himself. In the course of last winter, it was often mention'd in mix'd companys & in my hearing that Mr. Brown now in Virg.a of Portsmo's house, complain'd

much of Mess. Garnett & Co as being exceeding bad correspondents that they were indebted many thousands & had not re-
-mitted any thing the preceding year, to which I always replyed, I cou'd not tell how to credit the fact, as I knew Mr Garnett was a money'd man & Mr Lee had a very good estate besides his Clerkship. I remember to have read to Mr George Thornton in my Counting house these letters which passed between Mr Lee & myself relative to shipping ^Cargoes & believe I did say to him in the course of our privat conversation, that as Perkins & Co w. assuredly give up business in a little time, it was probable, from the affinity between mr Lee & me that Mess. Garnett & Co w. apply to me for their goods; but if they did, tho' I knew them to be very bad, I cou'd not make any distinc-
-tion between them & my other mercantile correspondents.

Thus you have a full state of the facts & may make what use you please of them; as Mess. Garnett & Co have not wrote to me on the subject I think it w. be improper for me to mention it to them; & Indeed I do not believe it w. be of much use, as they do not seem in the least inclin'd to come into my plan of correspondence & I cannot agree to ship cargoes on any other, only with them, I think security w. be unnecessary, but then they sh. give their own bond to in a double penalty to comply with the terms agreed.

This alteration I have proposed to Mr. M. Smith, to give the security on his own estate only & if you think it worth while you will please to mention it to both.

(No 56)

Wm Lee
Oct. 4th 1773

(dupt copy)

Mr Russel is arrived: I have taken the Liberty you allow'd of not accepting y? bill to him; I have no doubt you will take due paine to remit before it becomes due, but sh. you not, if it is in my power you may rely on its being paid; but this must depend on others remitting. If the Cargoe gentry remitt tolerably your bill will be paid at all events. I wrote you the 18th Ult.o p. Capt. Curtis who vail'd from the Downs 2 or 3 days ago for Rapt.k with Lyrus for Potk — to which be pleased to refer.

Pray write him by every convyance to any part of G. Britain how & where this Ship is to load. Mrs Lee is still up. we are all well & present our Love to your D.r Sister & the Children. I am most Sincerely &

Affect.ly &c.r William Lee

//

Francis Lightfoot Lee Esq.r

My Dear Brother London 2 Dec.r 1773.

Yr. worship has been so busy w.th yr. garden &c at Menokin that you have not found time to write me one line since July & have let the Muses play me false. Triplet & Co. have remitted ab.t 1/8 of their gords & Rayson & Eden the Muses not one shilling for their's & Rayson & thinks nothing since his Bro.r & to compleat the business, not one shilling in money has come this year from the estate. All this is peculiarly hard when money was scarce, & Col. Taylor who was My only correspondent that ever had any thing worth mentioning in my hands, has now drawn within £100. If you do not exert yourself & make the above Gent: remit speedily & fully I do not know what may be the consequence; therefore I beg you to use yr. utmost endeavors. I have chartered Capt.n Roman a small ship of ab.t 300 hhds to load in Pots: she is to clear out the 24th. Inst.t & you may expect her the last of Feb.y, so that I hope you & your Br. Richd. will be fully provided for her. So small a ship cannot puzzle you or the Devil is in it; The

Capt

Capt. loaded last year at Nanjemoy. This Ship will carry all my correspondt. goods & I give you this early notice that you may prepare them for her coming. I am told Messrs. Hyndman & Co. do not send Dobbie this year to Rapk. so that if Capt. Brown loads for me in Jas. River there will be still a greater necessity for my sending a ship in the Spring to Rapk., of all which I shall expect accurate & early advice from you & here let me repeat what I have too often said before: that it is impossible for one to form great plans for want of regular intelligence from Virga. The 7th of last month Mrs. Lee brot me another Girl who is yet quite a stranger — Mrs L. has been very ill but is now got about. By a hint dropd from Col. Taylor I find some of my old friends have been at work & suggested that my public capacity will obstruct my mercantile business; Tell these Cavillers they do not know me, that the greater difficulties I have to encounter, the greater I am — I have before me the glorious example of my namesake the Immortal William the third.

However they may be boasted, of boasting was worth any thing, that I am the first Virginian who ever arrived to so great an honor; especially too, when conferd, unsolicited & unasked & with the universal approbation of all Parties.

Our best Love to our Dr Sister & am ever, most

Faithfully & affectionately

My Dr Brother's William Lee

Boston December 21: 1773

Sir

It has been the Expectation of many of the Colonists that the last Session of Parliament would have put a Final end to those Grievances under which they had so long been oppressed, and against which they had so long, in Vain Remonstrated. They expected that the Revenue Acts would have been Repealed and that they should no more have had Reason to complain of the unconstitutional exertions of Parliamentary Power: They were naturally led to form these expectations from the Conduct of Administration, who lately encouraged them with assurances, that if all things remained quiet in America, these unhappy dissentions would soon terminate in a lasting Union: But how, Sir were they Surprized to find they had been deceived: to find that the Parliament, at the very time they expected Relief, pursued new Measures for Effectually Securing and inhancing these oppressive Revenues, and with this view by an act, passed the last Session empowered the East India Company to Ship their Teas to America. From this Act, they readily saw that they had nothing to hope from the favor of Administration, but that they rather discovered an indisposition that the Parliament should grant them any Relief; They Considered the Act as introductive of Monopolies which besides the train of Evils that attend them in a Commercial View are forever dangerous to Publick Liberty, more especially under the direction and Influence of Government, they also looked upon it pregnant with New Grievances, paving the way to further Impositions. and in its Consequences threatning the Final destruction of Liberties. Thrown by this Idea into a State of Desperation, the United Voice of the People, not only in this Province but in New York and Pennsylvania, and as far as we can learn, in all the Colonies, was that they would never suffer the Tea to be landed, but would prefer any Species of hazard and danger to a tame Submission to Measures, which if pursued must Reduce them to a State of Abject Slavery. Administration could not have invented a method so effectual for raising the Spirit of the Colonies, or promoting among them an entire union of Sentiment. at the same time People on your side the Water have

y: Franklin Esq:

have for several Months been Repeatedly Informing our Merchants of this Manauver and advising them as they Regarded their Sacred rights to withstand the landing of the Teas by the most Vigorous opposition.

While the Minds of the People were impressed with these Sentiments, the Vessels arrived with the Teas, Consigned to Messrs: Richard Clarke & Sons, Thomas & Elisha Hutchenson, Benjamin Faneuil and Joshua Winslow Esqr; previous to this the Town of Boston had several Meetings, in order to Induce the Consignees to Resign their Trust, but to no purpose. and immediately upon the arrival of the Vessels aforesaid, that every Measure possible might be taken to prevent Confusion and disorder, while the Minds of all were in great agitation, the People in this and many of the Neighbouring Towns Assembled in the Old South Meeting house / Faneuil Hall not being capacious enough to Contain the People that attended / to prevail with the Consignees to send back the Teas and if possible to preserve it from that Destruction, which the Resentments of the People might justly Lead them to Expect. You will see by the inclosed papers the Measures they took, and the Resolves they passed, and will wonder, perhaps, that these Resolves and measures were in vain — they not only treated with the Consignees but with the owners and Masters of these Vessels, but all without Success. Despairing to Effectuate any Method of Accomodation, after having tried all that could be devised to no purpose, they Dissolved the Meeting, which agreable to their constant and declared design had protected the Teas for destruction. High Twenty days were now passed since the Arrival of one of the Tea Vessels Commanded by Capt: Hall, at which time, according to Act of Parliament, it was in the Power of the Custom House Officers to take the Teas into their own possession in order to Secure the duties, there were just grounds to think that they intended to do it the minute the Twenty days were expired and that they would attempt to Land them by force and overbear any opposition that might be by a second Effusion of Blood: under these apprehensions, the Teas on the Evening of the 16th Instant were destroyed by a number of Persons unknown and in disguise — Such was the obstinacy of the Consignees their Advisers and Coadjutors, Such their aversion to all Conciliating Measures that they are almost universally Condemned, and some even of the Tory party among us, acknowledge that the destruction of the Teas must be imputed to these obstinate Enemies of our Liberties, who never would Consent to any method proposed for its preservation, and who perhaps wished

wished to irritate and Inflame the minds of an injured, oppressed People to measures of violence of which afterwards they hoped to make their own advantages.

The House of Representatives at their last Session appointed us a Committee to write to their Agent, in pursuance of this appointment we have given you this Information of the present State of our Affairs and doubt not you will make such an Improvement of this Intelligence as shall be most for the Interest of this Province in particular and of the Colonies in general

We are with Respect
Your most humble Servts

Thomas Cushing
Samuel Adams
John Hancock
Wm Phillips

Sir

Boston Decemb: 23. 1773

At the instance of my worthy friend Mr. Sam: Adams I have presum'd to take upon me to communicate to you what I know concerning the doings of the Town, & of the People, at their late meetings, respecting the Teas exported by the India Company in Captains Bruce, Hall & Coffin: This I am the more capable of doing, as I have the honor of being one of the Selectmen of this Town: I am therefore personally acquainted with some facts relating to this matter, more especially what past between the Selectmen & Mr. Jon.a Clarke, one of the Consignees at the interview they had with him & his brother a few days before the people met on this occasion. From the first report of the India Company's obtaining an act of parliament to export Teas to the Colonies, it threw the Inhabitants of this & the other towns into great agitation, they judging that it was altogether a plan of Administration to increase & secure the revenue, which for some years past has caused such distress & unhappiness in North America. When it was known that Messrs. Hutchinsons, Clarkes & Sanuels were to be the Agents for the India

India Company, it was tho't advisable to call Town toge=
ther to know the minds of the Inhabitants on this matter;
they met y.e 4th inst.o debated on the subject, & adjourn'd to the
6th. At both these meetings they manifested by their votes
their detestation of the measure; not as an act of the India
Comp.y but as a scheme of administration. They rais'd a
reputable Committee to wait on the Consignees, who, as
the Town judged, treated their application with con=
tempt: this being the case the meeting was dissolv'd.
On the 18th the Town was again called together to deliberate
on this matter: a very great number of the Inhabitants, &
of the most respectable characters appear'd: the Town was
solicitous to gain the consent of the Consignees to the resh=
ping the tea to London: they were the more urgent, as they
knew this measure would prevent the destruction of the
Company's property, which they judged would be the case
if it was not sent back. They again rais'd a Committee
to wait on the Consignees: they treated this application much
in the same manner as they did the other. The answer
they sent the Town was look'd on by them as hissing.
They voted it unsatisfactory & the meeting was dis=
solv'd & no further application was made to them by
the

the Town. — Peoples minds were daily more & more agitated. A number of persons friendly to the Consignees, fearfull of disagreable Consequences, endeavour'd to persuade them to come to a composition with the Town: of this number I was one, We set before them the Evils that must ensue if they were obstinate: but if a Composition took place, the property of the Company would be preserv'd, the Town would be restor'd to its usual tranquillity & they themselves would recover their former good standing with their fellow Citizens. Tho' we labour'd night & day in the affair, all our efforts could not produce an agreement betwixt them & the Town. — The Town's people that they had been ill treated by them at the late Town meetings, therefore they were now on their part determin'd that the Teas should not be Landed, & the Consignees were on their part obstinate & would be no ways active in sending it back. — Had the Consignees, on the Town's first application to them, offer'd to have stored the Tea subject to the inspection of a Committee of Gentlemen till they could write their principals; & that until that time no duty should be paid, which no doubt the Commissioners of the Customs would have consented to, under these circumstances: Had they made such an offer to the Town at either of their two meetings, I am perswaded the Town would have closed with them &

& every thing would have been quiet & the tea would have
been preserved from destruction. The above doings took place
before the arrival of the tea & before the arrival of Mr. Jon.
Clark, one of the Consignees, from London. — On Saturday
the 27th ult.o a few days after his arrival, he called on me
to know if it would be agreable to the Selectmen for him
to wait on them: I told him it would, that if he would
name his time, the Board should be summon'd — accordingly
to his desire the Board met at 4 o'Clock P.M. He, with
his brother attended. He inform'd the Selectmen that he
esteem'd himself very unhappy in incurring the displea-
sure of his fellow Citizens by his being appointed an Agent
for the India Company for the sale of the tea that was ex-
pected — He said the appointment was not of his seeking,
that he was wholly passive in the affair (this by some
is said to be not true) therefore it was unreasonable that
he & the others should suffer — We told him that tho
our private opinion be what it would, by what we could
collect, the people would be satisfied with nothing less
than the sending the tea back — He said that was
impossible for him to do, that it was contrary to the acts
of Trade, the tea, with the Vessell would be liable to Confisca-
tion

that in this way they should be a means of procuring
the loss of the Company's interest, & perhaps bring on ruin
to themselves. — He told him that, perhaps some method
might be devised that would remove the difficulty; that
if it could not be landed without the utmost hazard,
if he should reship it, & prolish against the obstructors
of his regular proceedings & return the tea to London with
such a protest, he might save the Company's property &
perhaps obtain their thanks for his care of their interest:
whereas were the Consignees to take no steps for the pre=
servation of it, they would, & very justly, incur their re=
sentment for not preserving the tea which in their power
to do it. — He had a long Conversation with this Gen=
tleman & his brother, on the subject. — On the whole,
before he left us, he said, that nothing should be done
as to the tea in any clandestine manner, that the Ves=
sel should come up to town with it; that so soon
as Capt. Hall, who was hourly expected, should arrive,
& he knew the contents of his letters, he would immediately
send in proposals to the Selectmen for them to commu=
nicate to the Town. — The next day Capt. Hall arriv'd.

The

The Selectmen met at the Hall, (altho' Sabbath day) at 12 o'Cl
in expectation of an application from M.r Clarke: He sent
our messenger to his house, could hear nothing of him.
We adjourn'd 'till 5 o'Clock in the Evening, when we agai
met, hoping to have an application, that we might
have time to call the town together in the way prescrib
by law, before any other meeting might take place:
We continued sitting 'till 9 o'Clock, sent again to the
houses of the Consignees, but could get no intelligence wher
they were. — One of the Selectmen finding the Storm
rising, sent privately to M.r Clarke's brother in law, des
him, if he had any regard for him or his connection
that he would find him, & get him & the others forth
with to apply to the Selectmen (agreable to his promise)
that a regular town meeting might be called — He return
for answer, that it was impossible for him to see them
that evening; but that early in the morning he would
get them to send a Billet to the Selectmen with their
proposals. — Very early next morning hand bills
were dispersed, by unknown persons, inviting the people
meet at Faneuil Hall on occasion of Capt. Hall's arrival
with the Tea. This being the case it was in vain to

attempt to call the town together in a legal way which would have been done, had Mr Clarke have complied with his promise to the Selectmen, which was, that immediately on the arrival of Capt Hall he would hand in to them his proposals as a foundation for a town meeting. This might have prevented the Event that has since taken place. — The people of this & the neighbouring Towns met in conformity to the dispersed hand Bills on Monday the 29th — A very great number met, so great that the Town hall could not contain them — They were obliged to adjourn to a large meeting house, where, 'tis supposed, that five or six thousand of respectable Inhabitants met — Men of the best Characters & the first fortunes — The doings of this & the other meetings are made publick, that it will be needless for me to recite them. I will only say that it is the Observation of persons unprejudiced & of Character, who attended these meetings, which consisted of all Sorts, Whig & Tory, that the utmost decorum was observed, that thro' the whole of their debates, altho' they were determin'd the Tea should not be landed subject to a Duty, yet it was apparent that their only view in sending it back, was not only to render the Scheme of Administration abortive, but to preserve the Tea from Destruction — This ran thro' the

whole

whole of their reasoning on the subject.—To accomplish
this step that could be taken (consistent with their
intentions of its going back) was taken to preserve it.
Some time after the people were assembled, I receiv
a letter directed to me, sign'd by all the Consignee
the purport of which was that they could not compl
with the expectations of the town in sending the tea
back, but that they would store it, till they could
know the mind of the India Company concerning it.
The people order'd the letter to be read, but they wer
so irritated at the conduct of these Gentlemen that
they acted no further on the letter than hearing it rea
At this meeting the people requir'd Mr. Rotch, the
owner of Capt. Hall's ship, at his peril, to return the
tea on board, to London.—He consented to it, but fear
he consider'd himself as under duress & therefore to
save himself from blame, he should protest against the
people.—So far they were contented, hoping they
should obtain the end they were in pursuit of, & at
the same time preserve the Company's property; & that
the tea would be on its return to London before twenty
days should expire, that being the time the officers of
the Customs could let it lay on board under a seper
Comm

Some days after this meeting, it was evident that Mr. Rotch, by his conduct, had no intention of returning the tea in his ships to London — This being the apprehension of the people, it created a great uneasiness, not only in this but in the other towns; however they waited 'till the 17th instant, but three days before the Expiration of the time when the officers of the Customs would take possession of it for the duties, & perhaps call in the naval & military force to their aid, which, since the destruction of the tea, has been found to have their intention. The Capts. of the several Ships of war being order'd on board and preparations were, it is said, actually made for some Expedition (there being then, & are now in the Harbour one sixty gun Ship of War, two Frigates besides several smaller Vessells of force) it was much fear'd the Country would have destroy'd the teas even under these circumstances, which would have produced dreadfull effects on all sides. — At this Meeting there was a much greater appearance than at any time. People attended it from Towns at the distance of twenty miles. — At this they order'd Mr. Rotch, at his peril, to carry back the tea to London, — He told the people, that as the Custom house officers would not clear out his Ships, so long as

as the tea was on board, so neither would the Gov.r give him a pass by the Castle, therefore it was in vain for him to attempt it — They order'd him immediately to wait on the Collector & demand a Clearance for his Ship — the Collector refused to do it — They then order'd him to wait on the Governor to know if he would give his Ship a pass by the Castle, he refused also by saying that as the Ship was not regularly clear'd at the Custom house, he could not do it — The people then requir'd of Mr. Rotch his answer, whether he would proceed with his Ship, or order Capt. Hall, the Master, to proceed to London with the Ship in the situation she was in, — He gave for answer that he would not. —

On this the meeting was dissolv'd; but before the dissolution of the meeting, a great number in disguise, who, it was said, came from the Country, past'd by where the people were assembled & went on board the several Vessells that had the tea on board & in a very short time, without noise or tumult, destroy'd all the tea by throwing it into the Sea. — The people from their first taking up this matter until the destruction

of

of the tea, show'd no disposition to have it destroy'd, if it possibly could be prevented, consistent with their intentions of preventing its being landed & paying the Duty. — They took every method that a people engaged in such a cause could take — they waited till the last moment, hoping that a compliance with their requisition would take place, that so not only the end they had in view might be answer'd, but that the India Comp.y property might be preserv'd. — Let who will be the persons who were instruments of the destruction of so large a property almost every one look on the Consignees as the faulty cause. — Upon the whole I do lament the loss of the hon.ble Company: I also lament the original cause of that loss, which I think, is most unrighteous; & which has prove'd a source of unhappiness to the Americans. —

Very soon, I fear the Americans will be drove, if some kind of interposition does not take place, to that desperation, which neither the severest threats, nor the mildest treatment of the British parliament, will controul. — I have, in the above given, so far as I am able, an honest detail of facts relating

&c

to a matter very interesting, & which may perhaps
draw on us the resentment of Administration; yet we
do console ourselves that we have acted constitutionally,
& that a good Providence will so order this matter
as that it may issue in great good to these Colonies.
I should not have taken upon me to write on this
subject, but the relation I stand in to the town, & in
hopes that a plain circumstantial narration of facts might
be of Service, to a Gentleman of your influence and
disposition, I have therefore ventur'd on your candor &
have spoke the sentiments of a heart much agitated
for the welfare of this & our mother Country. If any
mite will serve the good old Cause, I give it chear-
fully. As I am no adept in Letter writing &
for other Reasons, I chuse to have my
name conceal'd - In any other way you may
make what use of this Letter you please. —
I am, with great regard for you, Sir, & for
all the friends of our happy Constitution

Your most Obt Servt.

John Scollay

Arthur Lee Esq.

(No 57)

Dear Brother,

Dec 31st 1773

The bearer Mr John Mills waits upon you for Letters of recommendation to your friends in Philadelphia. He is settled in Colchester & would be glad to receive commissions from the Gent: in Philadelphia for whatever they might want to purchase on Potomack. Your Letters to Doctor Shippen & Mr Hill will be sufficient to introduce him to the acquaintance of the trading Gentlemen. I have wrote myself, but am perswaded your Letters will have much more weight. Our Brother William who is very well acquainted with Mr Mills, has a very high opinion of his honor & deligence, as well as his acquaintance with business; and as far as I am acquainted with him I think the opinion not badly founded. I may add that Mr Mills has a friendship for our brother. I am Dr Bro.r y.r affte Hy

Menokin Dec.r 31. 1773

Francis Light. Lee

Francis Light Jun
Lee Little

(1057) 1773–

F. Lightfoot Lee
Dec. 31st 1773.

£93.17.5
100.
£93.17.5

Do

Col. Richard Henry Lee

to

Chantilly.

By Journey of
Wm. & Jno. Mills

I am very much obliged to you for taking
so remote an opportunity which report or
other circumstances might have raised or may have
on the conduct of the Americans
I have formed such an idea of American affairs
the conduct they have hitherto mentioned
the importance of this Dec Duty that it cannot
be altered by common report tho I cannot help
saying that I have a good deal alarmed
the principles of Administration because I am
on the opinions I had formed of their
sincerity that they would not have gone such a
had they not some reason to hope they could
or intimidated our friends
that the Americans may have the honor of Defy
ing the whole Empire from the oppressive
acts & laws which have been entirely repealed
cated out of the constitution which has

upon us from the earliest period of
2. that they may reap the full fruits of
and renders the present the happiest
British Annals is the sincere prayer of
& for that the power to be Dear Sir

Your sincere friend
And Obed Servt
Catharine Macaulay



Mrs Catharine Macaulay
to
a Lee

No date but probably 1765–70.
(Copy within)

(No 6)

1776

Dr. to 1712 to 1773

Carol.	£344.	059
Geor.	62.	932
N Hr.	527.	055
N Port.	2	132
N York	289.	214
Pensyl.	426.	418
Virg. Mary.	320.	900
	1.971.	544.

12 per Cent
Prop. Interest 237. 45

2.21[illegible]

To Arthur Lee

Catharine (No 6)
Mrs Macaulay to Arthur Lee. [no date]

I am very much obliged to you for taking [pains] to remove any apprehensions which reports & other circumstances might have raised in my mind on the Conduct of the Americans.

I have formed such an idea of American virtue from the conduct they have hitherto maintained, since the imposition of the Tea Duty that it cannot be altered by common reports tho' I cannot help owning that I have been a good deal alarmed by the measures of Administration, because I concluded in the opinion I had formed of their character that they would not have gone such [lengths] had they not some reason to hope they had corrupted & intimidated our friends.

That the Americans may have the honour of delivering the whole Empire from the oppression and slavery which have never been entirely [eradicated] out of the Constitution and which [have [lain]] upon us from the earliest period of [its formation] That they may reap the full fruits of [their [virtue]] and render the present the brightest [era in the] British Annals is the sincere prayer of [her] who has the honour to be

Dear Sir Your sincere friend
And obed[t] Serv[t]
Catharine Macaulay

To Col. Richard Henry Lee

(N58)

My Dear Brother

London 1st. Jan.y 1774

Since my former letter p. this Opp.y I have again seen Mr. Jennings who says Mr. Molleson tells him that he paid the money for Mr. Campbell to Mr. J. who still cannot remember any thing of the transaction. however he says he shall repay the money, as Mr. M. Campbell appears positive that he paid it to him, altho' he was not a subscriber. I have permitted Capt. Roman to wait a few days for some goods that he might get some freight for which Indulgence I hope he will pay more attention to my business in Virg.a. Tho' Mr. Russells ship is gone out I can't suppose it will be of any great disadvantage as probably very few will ship to him now, unless it be Turberville & Mr. J. A. Washington. His licence is out the last of Jan.y but I am told a new bargain is negotiating with the Creditors, which is, if they will stay till May, he will pay 5/. in the pound; I don't know whether this proposal is, or will be, agreed to. Greig must be about sailing when Roman arrives, so that he will have but few competitors to strive with. You know my plan is, first to allow Gentlemen to draw according to the

Country cash price after the Ships sails, for what Tob.o they have shipp'd yorder'd insurance on. The Country price for Pot.o or Rapp.k Tob.o cannot, as things appear to me, exceed 8/6 or 10/. Curr.y in Cash. The last year has been a very profitable one for the Maryl.d Merch.ts yar bad a one for the Virg.a Merch.ts; two or 3 More such will not leave six on the Virg.a trade in this port. If you find the least difficulty in getting a load for Roman, do not hesitate a moment to give Liberty to any one. The Hon.ble Mr. Carter Blands & Bogles assignees & Trustees, may possibly have more to ship than you can take in; besides, Tob.o is always to be had on Liberty in York & James River. Should you want any on Liberty Mr. Norton at York's may possibly give you 100 or 150 Hhds on Rapp.k. By a letter from Petersburg dated late in Oct.r just come to hand to Mr. Lee, we are informed that our B.r Loudoun is coming here for his health; this I am much concerned at, tho' can hardly believe it, as in his own letter of Sept.r 7.th he does not mention, even having been ill; however it will give us infinite pleasure to see him, tho' could heartily wish that he came on any other business, than that of obtaining health.

I shall say no more respecting Roman's load, or any other business of mine in Virg.a, as I am sure whatever steps you take will be satisfactory to me, therefore I say.r friendly diligence & attention I commend myself & my affairs. [As to Politics, I refer you to the Magazines & papers; Our Ministers seem to have totally forgot the connections of Great Britain with Europe & their whole attention is fix'd on subduing America. Indeed you ought to

stand firm & united & then it will not be in the power of this, or any other Country to hurt you. Every real Patriot in this Country admires the spirit that has already appeared among you; & the last resolves of the Virg.a Assembly have struck a greater panic into the Ministery, than anything that has passed since the stamp Act; & from some late advices it is expected that the Northern Colonies will send home Articles of impeachm.t ag.st L.d Hillsborough & also ag.st Lord Dartmouth for signing the Letter respecting the Rhode Islanders. You see by this, what an idea is entertained here of your spirit.] I will intrude no more upon you and this Letter, by assuring you of my lasting & steady Affection.

Farewell, Willia[illegible]

(No 58)

No 223 Wm Lee
Jan.y 1st 74

1774

To

Richard Henry Lee Esqr
Chantilly
Potomac

Honble Commissioners
Virginia

Col.o Bowne

W. Lee to Mess.rs H. L.
1st Jan.y 1774
Politics near the End

No 233

Col. Francis Lightfoot Lee

My Dear Brother

London 4 Jan. 1774

Capt. Roman has stayd a few days to get some goods on freight, but hope the detention will not be of any injury, tho I am afraid you will have enough trouble with Capt. Roman, being just informed by Capt. Dutchmans owner, that Dutchman was to have 200 hhds from you; but still if Trefolet & Co., Hallowes & Hopkins mean to remit for their goods, there must be Tob° enough for Roman especially with the assistance of the goods now shipd. You will be the best able to judge what is best to be done with them, for tho I have wrote you to have the value in hand before the goods are delivered yet if you think the payment is secure, so that the remittance may be here within the twelve month, I mean for me to be in earth time enough to pay for them, 'tis all I want; therefore if good security is given under a forfeiture of 10 or 15 p Ct on the Invoice besides interest, to just bills of Exch^a or Tob° to be shipd on their Acct to the amt of the Invoice in my hands before the last of July, it may do very well; however I refer that business entirely to your discretion. I wd not

wish you to say any thing to M.r M.r Smith ab.t his goods
till I write to him myself; for at present it wo.d not
be prudent or honest in me to ship any more Cargoes t.o
I get a remittance for those sent last year. M.r Mills
has sold for ab.t £1500 & M.r Smith £1300, are more
than bought, in Justice to the tradesmen, to send bill.
I hear what you have done last Fall & how Brewer
is to be loaded. I think M.r Smith & Faithful &.c if they re
mit regularly are as many stores on Rapp.k as I wo.d
chuse to be concerned with, & Mills on Pato. whose to settle
at Colchester which with Alexandria are the only tolerable
Warehouses on Potomack. By a Letter from Wmsburg
to M.r Lee late in Oct.r, we are told you were coming home
for y.r health; the want of health, I hope you do not
experience, — we can hardly believe it as you do not
in y.r last even hint y.r being unwell. If y.r woman
is necessary, I think a years tour may be accomplished
for £300. & we will do every thing in our power to make
you happy. Suppose you stay till I come & bring you
with me. God bless you both at Minehead & may many
happy years be your Lot. The papers & Mag.s will
tell you all the Public News. The Templar is at
L.d Shelburnes in the Country he is to write soon.
Pray send me some money immediately or I shall be
ruined; & if Capt. Froman sh.d draw any bills, you can
get the money for them from M.r Nicholas.
Farewell & ever believe me
Yours
W Williams

Col. Francis Lightfoot Lee

My Dear Bro.

London 10. Jan. 1774.

This goes express to catch Capt. Roman in the Downs, the inclosed letter to Col. L. Carter you will please to seal, after perusing, & deliver; you know what he wrote to me: You will consider whether 'tis proper to deliver my other letter with his Acct. Curt. — this is left to yr. own judgement.

The Esquire in a letter rec.d this day, dated Nov. 15 says, "You will get Tob.o in my Noble Bounty & the Argo from Rapp.k" how much, or from whom, I can't tell; however for fear the Eliza Capt. Brown sh.d go to Rapp.k & you sh.d be unprovided with tob.o I have got the inclosed letters from Fernandes & Co. to Mills; from the assignees of Perkins & Co. to Yeates; from Barlow Wiggenton & Francis to their agent Hogue the Eliza the preference if she sh.d want tob.o on liberty: these letters sh.d be forwarded at all events; the assignees of Bland have also authorised me to use their names in applying to Mr. Lyons for

11

the same purpose, which you can do if it is necessary;
Binder Esqr. Brown is well acquainted with the Agents for
Bagley Assignees, & they will probably want to ship Tobo
on Liberty; with their assistance I hope you will
not, in any event, be puzzled with Capt. Brown.

Pray endeavor to keep the Squires from drawing, for his
bills must be protested. I do not recollect anything mate-
rial I could at present, so with my best Love remain
ever Your. Farewell William Lee.

Col. Francis Lightfoot Lee

My Dear Brother. London

I have rec.d ag.st sa
shave incurred T. Edwards's in Tob.o as ag
I am greatly indebted to you for th
you have paid to any affairs yt it w.d ha
high satisfaction had you mentioned a
the Terms & ab.t ag.t settlement of my
Steward & what Tob.o was made last
points I know nothing. M.r Molleson
letters from Pet.s in Dec.r came as late
I have not one, by the same ap[illegible] I
heard something of Capt.n Brown or
Hasle of the Dorothy, who came fro
15 Dec.r ——— Till I hear ab.t Capt.n Brow
form any farther plan respecting this ye
but must leave the whole to my friend
=ment, with this observation, that at
not appear to me either prudent or fa
Smith or any other person a Cargo sh
are made for have already sent, that

ons, for which reason I'd rather wish
d those rent in Roman than H. Mure
lately without saying one word ab.t re
te goods of Rayvare, with as much unco:
Did not owe me one shilling. If my
ts have sent their tob.o two or three ports
might send me bills on their consign.ts
r. However without considerable remittance
shortly, I must seriously tell you, I
e consequences will be dreadful to me,
must be downright madness in the
to continue drawing on me as they
inevitable consequence must be, that thus
sacks. I'd chearfully lend them the mo
e I had it or cou'd borrow it for them
I cou'd not do under so pressing a
that in Virg.a. I hope Danby will, as he
ed of, send as soon as possible; by the first
Rapp.k y.r goods will be sent whom shall
hear thro'. Our joint Love attend you your
best Compl.ts at Mt. Airey.

I am most affec.ly Yours.

William Lee

by

At the Court at St. James's
the 7th day of February 1774

Present

The Kings most Excellent Majesty

Lord Chancellor	Earl of Rochford	Lord Hyde
Lord President	Earl of Dartmouth	James Stuart Mackenzie Esqr.
Duke of Queensberry	Earl of Bristol	Hans Stanley Esqr.
Duke of Ancaster	Earl of Pomfret	George Onslow Esqr.
Lord Chamberlain	Viscount Falmouth	Sir Jeffery Amherst
Earl of Suffolk	Viscount Barrington	Charles Jenkinson Esqr.
Earl of Denbigh	Lord Le Despencer	Sir John Gaudriche
Earl of Sandwich	Lord Cathcart	

Whereas there was this day read at the Board a Report from the Right Honourable the Lords of the Committee of Council for Plantation Affairs dated the 29th of last Month in the words following Viz.t

"At the Council Chamber Whitehall
"the 29th of January 1774

"By the Right Honourable the Lords of the Committee of Council for "Plantation affairs

"Present

"Archbishop of Canterbury	"Lord George Sackville Germain	"Hans Stanley Esqr.
"Lord President	"Viscount Townshend	"Richard Rigby Esqr.
"Duke of Queensberry	"Viscount Falmouth	"Sir Eardley Wilmot
"Earl of Suffolk	"Lord North	"Thomas Townshend Junr Esqr.
"Earl of Denbigh	"Bishop of London	"George Onslow Esqr.
"Earl of Sandwich	"Lord Le Despencer	"George Rice Esqr.
Earl of Rochford	"Lord Cathcart	"Lord Chief Justice De Grey
"Earl of Marchmont	"Lord Hyde	"Sir Lawrence Dundas
"Earl of Dartmouth	" James Stuart Mackenzie Esqr.	"Sir Jeffery Amherst
"Earl of Buckinghamshire	"Genl Conway	"Sir Thomas Parker
"Earl of Hardwicke	"Wellbore Ellis Esqr.	"Chas Jenkinson Esqr.
"Earl of Hillsborough	"Sir Gilbert Elliot	

"Your Majesty having been pleased by your Order in Council of the 10th of last "Month to refer unto this Committee an Address of the House of Representatives of the

"Province of Massachusetts Bay Complaining of the Conduct of Thomas Hutchinson
"Esq. Governor Andrew Oliver Esq. Lieutenant Govr. of that Province and humbly
"praying that your Majesty would be pleased to remove the said Thomas Hutchinson Esq.
"and Andrew Oliver Esq. from their Seats in that Government — The Lords of the
"Committee did in Obedience to your Majesty's said Order of Reference proceed on the 11th
"of this instant to take the Petn. of the House of Representatives into Consideration
"when there appeared by Benjamin Franklin Esq. Agent for the House of
"Representatives (and from whom said Petn. had been transmitted to the Right
"Honble the Earl of Dartmouth one of your Majesty's Principal Secretarys of State)
"Edmund Jennings Esq. and by Israel Mauduit Esq. from whom application had been made to this
"Committee humbly praying on behalf of your Majesty's L. Govr. & Lieutenant Govr.
"that he might be heard by Counsel in relation to the Address of the House of Representatives
"of said Province; And said Benjamin Franklin Esq. having thereupon prayed
"that he might in that case be heard also by his Counsel at a future day — The Lords
"of the Committee did in Compliance with the Petn. of the said Israel Mauduit Esq.
"at the instance of said Benjamin Franklin Esq. think proper to appoint a further
"day to consider the Complaint of said Petn. of the House of Representatives of Massachusetts Bay
"and to allow Counsel to be heard on both sides thereupon — And their Lordships having
"been this day attended by Counsel on both sides accordingly heard all that they had
"to offer & having Maturely weighed & considered the whole of the Evidence produced by
"said Benjamin Franklin Esq. upon which the said House of Representatives did come
"to the said Resolves which are the Foundation of their L. Petn. to your Majesty; The Lords
"of the Committee take leave to represent to your Majesty that said House of Representatives
"have by their said Petn. taken upon them to bring a Grave Charge against your
"Majesty's L. Govr. & Lieutenant Govr. & to complain of their Conduct as having a
"Natural & efficacious Tendency to Embarrass & alienate the Affections of your
"Majesty from that your Loyal Province — that Harmony & good Will
"between Great Britain & that Colony which every honest Subject would strive to
"establish — To excite the Resentment of the British Administration against them
"Province — To defeat the Endeavours of their Agent & friends to serve them by a
"fair Representation of their State of facts — To prevent their humble & repeated Petns.
"from reaching the Ear of your Majesty or having their desired Effect, and finally
"Charging your Majesty's said Govr. & Lieutenant Govr. with the having been among the
"Chief Instruments of introducing a Fleet & an Army into that Province to establish
"and perpetuate their Plans, whereby your Majesty's said Govr. & Lieutenant Govr.

" have been not only greatly instrumental of disturbing the peace and Harmony
" of the Government and Causing unnatural and hateful discord and animosity
" between the Subjects of your Majesty's Extensive Dominions but are justly chargeable
" with all that Corruption of Morals and all that Confusion, Misery and Bloodshed
" which have been the Natural Effects of Posting an Army in a Populous Town;
" But the Lords of the Committee cannot but express their Astonishment that a Charge
" so serious and extensive a Nature against the persons whom the said House of
" Representatives acknowledge by their Address &c. to have heretofore had the Confidence
" and Esteem of the People & to have been advanced by your Majesty from the purest
" Motives of rendering your Subjects happy to the highest Places of Trust & Authority
" in that Province should have no other Evidence to support it but inflammatory &
" precipitate Resolutions founded only on certain Letters written confidentially by them
" (and all but one before they were appointed to the Posts they now hold) in the Years
" 1767, 1768, and 1769 to a Gentleman then in no Office under the Government,
" in the Course of familiar Correspondence and in the Confidence of Private Friendship
" and which it was said (and it was not denied by Mr. Franklin) were surreptitiously
" obtained after his death & sent over to America & laid before the Assembly of the
" Massachusetts Bay, and which Letters appear to contain nothing reprehensible
" or unworthy of the Situation they were in; and he presumes that it was from this
" Impropriety that the Counsel did disclaim on behalf of the Assembly any intention
" of bringing a Criminal Charge against the Gov. & Lieutenant Gov.; but said that
" the Petition was founded solely on the Grounds of the Gov. & Lieutenant Gov. being as
" they alledged now become Grievances to the People of the Province; & that it was
" with this light only that the said Petition was presented to your Majesty and that
" being no other Evidence now produced, than the said Resolutions & Letters, together
" with Resolutions of a similar Import, by the Council of said Province founded
" as it was said on the same Letters".

" That Lords of the Committee do agree humbly to Report as their Opinion
" to your Majesty that the said Petition is founded upon Resolutions passed
" upon false & erroneous Allegations & that same is groundless Vexatious and

Scandalous and Calculated only for the Seditious Purpose of keeping up a Spirit
of Clamour and discontent in the said Provinces And the Lords of the Committee do
further Humbly Report to your Majesty that Nothing has been laid before them which
does or can in their Opinion in any manner or in any Degree impeach the Honour
Integrity or Conduct of the said Govr. or Lieutt. Govr. — And their Lordships are
humbly of Opinion that the said Petition might to be dismissed.

His Majesty taking the said Report into Consideration was pleased with
the advice of his Privy Council to approve thereof and to Order that the said Petition of the
House of Representatives of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay be and it is hereby
dismissed this Board as Groundless Vexatious and Scandalous and Calculated only for the
Seditious Purpose of keeping up a Spirit of Clamour and Discontent in the said Provinces

G. Chetwynd.

Report on Petn
Boston.

1774—

Repat of the Lords
Comm.rs of Council
29th Jan.: 1774
On the Address of House
of Representatives of the Colony
of Mass: Bay, complaining
of Hutchinson Gov.r & Oliver L.G.
+
addressing their removal

(31)

At the Court at St. James's
the 7th. Day of February 1774

Present

The Kings most Excellent Majesty

Lord Chancellor
Lord President
Duke of Queensberry
Duke of Ancaster
Lord Chamberlaine
Earl of Suffolk
Earl of Denbigh
Earl of Sandwich
Earl of Rochford
Earl of Dartmouth
Earl of Bristol
Earl of Pomfret
Viscount Falmouth
Viscount Barrington
Lord Le Despencer
Lord Cathcart
Lord Hyde
Jam. Stuart Mackenzie
Hans Stanley
George Onslow
Sir Jeffery Amherst
Charles Jenkinson Esq.
Sir John Goodricke

Whereas there was this Day read at the Board a Report from the Right Honorable the Lords of the Committee of Council for Plantation Affairs dated the 29th. of last Month in the Words following. Viz.

At the Council Chamber Whitehall
the 29th. of January 1774.

By the Right Honorable the Lords of the Committee of Council for Plantation Affairs

Present

Archbishop of Canterbury
Lord President
Duke of Queensbury
Earl of Suffolk
Earl of Denbigh
Earl of Sandwich
Earl of Rochford
Earl of Marchemont
Earl of Dartmouth
Earl of Buckinghamshire
Earl of Hardwicke
Earl of Hillsborough
Lord Geo. Sackville Germain
Viscount Townsend
Viscount Falmouth
Lord North
Bishop of London
Lord Le Despencer
Lord Cathcart
Lord Hyde
Jam. Stuart Mackenzie Esq.
Gen. Conway
Welbore Ellis Esq.
Sir Geo. Ellis
Hans Stanley
Richard Rigby Esq.
Sir Eardley Wilmot
Tho. Townshend Esq.
George Onslow Esq.
George Rice Esq.
Lord Chief Justice De Grey
Sir Lawrence Dundas
Sir Jeffery Amherst
Sir Thomas Parker
Charles Jenkinson Esq.

Your Majesty having been pleased by your Order in Council of the 10th of last Month to refer unto this Committee an Address of the House of Representatives of the Province of Massachusetts Bay complaining of the Conduct of Thomas Hutchinson Esq. Governor & Andrew Oliver Esq. Lieutenant Governor of the Province & humbly praying that your Majesty would be pleased to remove the S.d Thomas Hutchinson Esq. & Andrew Oliver Esq. from their Posts in that Government. The Lords of the Committee did in obedience to your Majesty's said Order proceed on the 11th of this Instant to take the Pet.n of the House of Representatives into Consideration & were attended by Benjamin Franklin Esq. Retaining Counsell Agent for the said House of Representatives (and from whom the said Petition had been transmitted to the Right Hon.ble the Earl of Dartmouth one of your Majesty's Principal Secretarys of State) & likewise by Grael Standen Esq. from whom a Publication had been made to this Committee humbly praying on behall of your Majesty's Governor & Lieutenant Gov.r that He might be heard by Council in relation to the Address of the House of Representatives of the S.d Province & the S.d Benjamin Franklin Esq.r having thereupon prayed that He might in that Case be heard also by his Council at a future Day — The Lords of the Committee did in Compliance with the Pet.n of the S.d Grael Standen Esq.r & at the Instance of the S.d Benj.a Franklyn Esq.r think proper to appoint a further Day to resume the consideration of the S.d Pet.n of the House of Representatives of Massachusetts Bay & to allow Counsel to be heard on both Sides thereof — And their Lordships having this Day attended by Council on both Sides accordingly & heard all that they had to offer & having maturely weighed & considered the whole of the Evidence Adduced by the S.d Benjamin Franklyn Esq.r upon which the S.d House of Representatives did come to the several Resolves

which are the foundation of their Jo Petn to your Majesty; the Lords of the Committee take leave to represent to your Majesty that the Ho House of Representatives have by their Jo Petn taken upon themselves to bring a General Charge against your Majesty's Governor & Lieutenant Govr & to complain of their Conduct as having a natural & efficacious Tendency to Interest & alienate the affections of your Majesty from that your Loyal Province — to destroy that Harmony & Good Will between Great Britain & that Colony which every honest Subject would strive to establish — To excite the resentment of the British Administration against that Province — To defeat the endeavors of their Agents & Friends to serve them by a fair representation of their State of facts — To prevent their humble & repeated Petitions from reaching the Ear of your Majesty or having their — desired Effect, & finally charging your Majesty's Govr Lieutenant Govr with having been among the chief Instruments of introducing a Fleet & an Army into that Province to establish & perpetuate their plans, whereby your Majesty's Govr & Lieutenant Govr have been not only greatly instrumental of disturbing the Peace & Harmony of the Government & causing unnatural & hateful Divisions & Animosities between the several parts of your Majesty's extensive Dominions but are justly chargeable with all that Corruption of Morals & all that Confusion, Misery & Bloodshed which have been the natural Effects of posting an Army in a populous Town, but the Lords of the Committee cannot but express their Astonishment that a Charge of so serious & extensive a

Natures against the Persons whom the H. House of Representatives acknowledge by their H. Petition to have heretofore had the Confidence & Esteem of the People & to have been advanced by your Majesty from the purest Motives of rendering your Subjects happy to the highest Places of Trust & Authority in that Province should have no other Evidence to support it but inflamatory & precipitate Resolutions (founded only on certain Letters written respectively by them (& all but one before they were appointed to the Posts they now hold) in the Years 1767, 1768 & 1769 to a Gentleman then in no Office under the Government in the course of familiar Correspondence & in the confidence of private Friendship & which it was said (and it was not denied by Mr. Franklin) were surreptitiously obtained after his Death & sent over to America & laid before the Assembly of the Massachusetts Bay & which Letters appear to Us to contain nothing reprehensible or unworthy of the Situation they were in; and We presume that it was from this Impropriety that the Council did disclaim on behalf of the Assembly any intention of bringing a Criminal Charge against the Gov. & Lieutenant Gov. but said that the Pet. was founded solely on the ground of the Gov. & Lieutenant Gov. being as they alledged now become obnoxious to the People of the Province & that it was in this light only that the H. Petition was presented to your Majesty & there being no other Evidence now produced than the H. Resolutions & Letters together with Resolutions of a similar Import, by the Council of

Said Province founded as it was said on the same Letters

The Lords of the Committee do agree humbly to report as their Opinion to your Majesty that the Petition is founded upon Resolutions formed upon false & Erroneous Allegations That the same is groundless Vexatious & Scandalous & calculated only for the seditious purpose of keeping up a Spirit of Clamour & discontent in the said Province, And the Lords of the Committee do further humbly report to your Majesty that nothing has been laid before them which does or can, in their Opinions in any manner or in any degree, impeach the Honor Integrity or Conduct of the said Gov. & Lieutenant Gov. — And their Lordships are humbly of Opinion that the said Petition ought to be dismissed

His Majesty taking the said Report into Consideration was pleased with the Advice of his Privy Council to approve thereof & order that the said Petition of the House of Representatives of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay be, & is hereby dismissed this Board as groundless, Vexatious & Scandalous, & calculated only for the seditious purpose of keeping up a Spirit of Clamour & Discontent in the said Province

G. Chetwynd

A Genuine Copy
W. L.
London 17 Feb. 1774.

Report of Privy Council
on
the Address of the House
of Representatives of Mass.tts Bay
complaining of the Conduct of
Thomas Hutchinson esq. Governor
& Andrew Oliver esq Lieut. Gov.r
approved
by his Majesty 7 Feb.y 1774

In Council March 2d. 1774. Whereas this Province has a jus-
right to all the Lands bounded Southerly by the present Southern
Jurisdiction Line of Newhampshire, and the continuation of the said
Line and Northerly by the proper and true Northern line of the old
Colony of Massachusetts Bay and by a continuation thereof and
Westerly and Easterly by the Western and Eastern boundaries of the
said old Colony, both as to Jurisdiction and property, except so far as
the property of any of those Lands have been granted by the General
Court of this Province: And whereas an Order of the General Court has
past at this Session appointing a Committee to prepare a state of the
Province title to those Lands to be laid before the Court at the next
May Session: And whereas it may be needful in the mean time that
the Agents of each House of this Assembly in England should be
apprized of the forementioned Order for the purpose of preventing any
thing being done there in further prejudice to this Provinces right
aforesaid. Ordered that the Secretary be and he hereby is directed
to forward to the said Agents by the first opportunities authenticated
Copies of this Order for the purpose aforesaid. ——

Sent down for Concurrence
Thos. Flucker Secy

In the House of Represent. March 2d. 1774. Read & Concurred
T. Cushing Spkr

A true Copy
attest Thos. Flucker Secretary

Order of the House
of Representa.s of Mass: Bay
touching
The true Boundaries
of the Province
=
(2d. March 1774.)

Memorandum (No 13)

I had the honor (by desire) of waiting on Lord North on sunday the 26th March when his Lo.p asked me my opinion of the disposition of the generality of the people of America with regard to the differences subsisting betwixt the mother country and them

I told his Lo.p that I had a wife and family in Philadelphia, that I had lived upwards of sixteen years in America that I was well acquainted with the spirit and disposition of the people, that the King had not in his extensive dominions a sett of more loyal subjects than the Americans, at the same time, that his Lo.p might be assured that they would undergo the greatest distresses and die with their swords in their hands rather than bend to be taxed by the parliament of Great Britain

That the Americans was far from being so void of understanding but that they were sensible they ought to pay something towards defraying the expence of the protection they receive from Great Britain, but that, that something must be raised and given and granted by their own assemblies. and that it might to be remembered that the people in general was far from being rich. His Lo.p answered that the dignity of the nation (in which the Americans was concerned) was an object of the first consequence, that the resolution of parliament of the 20th of Feby was thrown out on purpose as a basis for a general compact, in order to have a line drawn betwixt the mother country & them with regard to taxation &c. That the most speedy and prudent method for getting this desired and consequential affair effectuated, was by sending a respectable deputation home by appointment of the different assemblies, that those and none else could be heard. That the King and his counsels had not the most distant desire to enslave nor distress the Americans.

But

But that the spirit of licentiousness had run so high in some of the Northern provinces (who dared to do what no power in Europe durst attempt) that the nation was inflamed at their arrogance, which alone brought on its resentment, that as to himself he had nothing more at heart than an honorable and speedy settlement of the differences in which his aid might be depended on, when constitutionally required consistent with the dignity of the nation and the trust reposed in him, he added that Mr Cooper (secretary to the treasury who was present) would give me a note in writing of what might be depended on

(The note given by Mr Cooper is as follows)

That it is earnestly hoped by all the real friends of the Americans, that the terms expressed in the resolutions of the 20th of Feby. last will be accepted by all the colonies who have the least affection for their king and country, or a just sense of their own interest. That they are honorable for Great Britain and safe for the colonies. That if the colonies are not blinded by faction these terms will remove every grievance relative to taxation, and be the basis of a compact between the colonies and the mother country.

That the people in America ought on every consideration to be satisfied with them. That no further relaxation can be admitted — The temper and spirit of the nation are so much against concessions, that if it were the intentions of Administration they could not carry the question. But administration have no such intention, as they are fully and firmly persuaded that further concessions would be injurious to the colonies as well as to Great Britain —

That there is not the least probability of a change of administration. That they are perfectly united in opinion and determined to pursue the most effectually measures and to use the whole force

of

of the Kingdom if it be found necessary to reduce the rebellious and refractory provinces and colonies —

There is so great a spirit in the nation against the congress that the people will bear the temporary distresses of a stoppage of the American trade — They may depend on this to be true

(Copy Jm)

Barkley's
Conversation with
Ld North

Barkley's
Conversation with
Lord North
=
Brook —

(Aug 13)

Col. Francis Lightfoot Lee

London 10th March 1774

My Dr Brother

Replaid to refer to mine of 25th

Mr. Thos Rogers Capt Benson inclosed to Mr. Simon Frazer of Mobile. As soon as You receive this advise Mr. Nicholas whether You will want the green Spring Cask or not for Roman, because if You do not, He is desired to put in on board of Ostram, if You should want it, I should like that by applying to Mr. Nelson & W. Lewis Esq. from others in town, a full Load for a Ship may be got on York River. Mr. H. Smith has his Spring Goods in Ostram Amot £1099. 1s 3d. as I take it, for granted You have got Security from Him as You wish Mr. Jon Thomas do when he ordered his Goods. You are [illegible] that at present it is Your Interest, that is, I wish to have a full Cargo of [illegible] over the Engagement with Coun, Mr Smith may possibly Ship in the loading of Roman but if he does not, He may Ship 100 Hds of Hogsheads in Ostram, so that in Coun, if application is made en time, I may have amends made Me for that. That will probably come on Liberty in Brown & Roman. The London Robert- Son will carry out your own Goods as the Ship is May at Bobbs Hole, by that Opp. I shall write again. Perhaps by Bradshaw Imposs. Both will sail in 10 Days or a Fortnight. Creamer has been arrived a great while, but I never got the original Letter You intended should come by Him, a Copy of which You sent by Mitchell. I do not well understand what our Bro. R. H. Lee wishes about the Dollars. It appears to Me that He has p. for my Amt £100 Sterlg. & Mr Turnus for which He is to have Credit & Mr Turnus

to be debited for that Sum; however to satisfy them, He shall have the Price of Dollars when Mitchell gets up, which may not be this Month, as He is still in the Bristol Channel. I am always desirous of doing Justice to every One therefore will do what is right respecting Mr. Morris's Bill; but it appears to me that He could not have sent one to Mitchell as the Land must then have been fully provided; indeed Mr. Bell wrote May the 3d of Dec. Mr. Morris has been rather hard, as I have not a Shill. for his first Goods which have been due Paid for 6 Weeks ago by Me. I am afraid your Plan with Mr. Bell will not take, as I understand the Stone is to be continued under them by Mrs. Barlow Mr. Simm-Orders & Henry Holland Father in Law to Mr. Brown to whom I believe all the Debts are now assigned, however it will be well to keep up your negotiation with them, as He would surely answer the purpose well, by Dread the idea of keeping a Fair which has certainly been the chief cause of the Merchts. Distress here. I cannot get the Buyers to return the Bill of Lading, all which is ready, the Sales shall be sent immediately on the delivery. This will probably meet You on the Assembly at Wms. burg therefore refer You to our Bro. Bill for Politics whose Letter on that Subject will be mark'd WA which You had better open if any Accident should keep Him from the Assembly. I am

Dear Sir
Your &c
Williamson &c

(Copy) Original P. Custom.

My Dear Brother.

London 19 March 1774.

I shall write particularly ab.t y.r Town affairs in two or 3 dayes p. the London, Robertson, who carries your goods, therefore only a word or two now. As I take the manners of the Eliza p. friendship to be rather hurt I beg you to advise me by more opportunities than one in the first place what day Brown arrived in Hampton Road, how long he waited there for the Lords answer when he came to his moorings in Rapp.k. & when the last of my 200 hhds were delivered to the Capt.n either to be consigned to me, or an Liberty because if the Tob.o is delivered to the Capt.n before his lay dayes expired & he wd not get it on board for a month or 6 weeks afterwards, I am of opinion he cannot claim any demurrage. 2.dly If he came particular information wh.d be given me respecting Roman, who, if his voyage out is not much quicker than the Liberties said to be, will arrive ab.t the time that Br[illegible] with y.r Tob.o [illegible] ria or Mr. Russells ships being there will deprive me of 20 [illegible], tho I really apprehend one principal reason of the latter winding up ships at all, was to be a stone in my way as possible. I understand Mess.rs Leighs & Hamlet are offended at my not shipping their goods, I cannot help it if they will not do as others, however Jn.o Lee has advised me upwards of £38. much above 12 Months. yet he does not ship this year in proportion, be so good as to remind him that he ought to remit me a bill for the bal.ce with interest.

I suppose you know I had security here for Jn.o Millers first goods, I hope to get the same for those sent by this opp.y am.t £1764. 6 9 but his friend, has been very ill for some months so that I have not yet been able to get that matter fixed, however they could not be detained longer without loosing the whole summer, therefore have ventured to send them as I can confide in his honesty, but they will be lost from me without good security here or there. I hope you will keep me fully advised respecting the Country each price & quantity of Tob.o on hand, the Number of ships in Pato & Rapp.k & the prospect of the ensuing crop, by them I shall be able to determine what ships to send out [illegible]. Farewell, believe me always Yours, William Lee

You have the last Pilag:

[redacted] March 14th 1774 75 78

The affairs of America are now become very serious. The Ministry are determined to punish & subdue the Inhabs. Boston is their first object.

... 6th Monday the 14th It was ordered on the H. of Commons That leave be given to bring in a Bill, for the more immediate carrying of the Officers employed in the collection & management of his Majesty's duties of Customs, from the town of Boston, in the Province of Massachusetts Bay, in N. America, & to discontinue the Landing & discharging, Lading & Shipping of Goods, Wares, & Merchandizes, at the said town of Boston, or within the Harbour thereof."

If the Colonies in general permit this step, unnoticed, a precedent will be established for subjecting them by degrees, till all opposition to arbitrary power is subdued. The manner however in which you meet this violent act, should be well weighed. The Proceedings of the Colonies in consequence of it, should be such as will be regarded as manifestoes. Great care should

pre[th] should be taken, to word them unexceptionably and plausibly. They should be prefaced with the strongest professions of respect & attachment to this Country, of reluctance to enter into any dispute with her, of the readiness you have always shewn & wish to shew of contributing according to your ability, & in a constitutional manner to her support; & of your determination to ~~unite~~ engage to every extremity rather than submit to be enslaved. These things will work in your favour with moderate People, & with Europe, to whose interposition America may yet owe her salvation, should the contest become serious & lasting. In short as we are the weaker, it becomes us to be prudent in words, however we may be determined to act for liberty if we do. There is persuasion here that America will see without any interposition, the siege of Boston. It is of the last importance to the general cause that your conduct should prove this opinion erroneous. If once it is perceived that you may be attacked

destroy piecemeal; action and. 77
will in its turn feel the vengeance which
it could not unite to accept. A general slavery or ruin must ensue. The Colonies should never forget L. North's declaration in the House of Commons, that he would not listen to the complaints of America till She was at his feet. The character of Lord North, a consideration of what he has been doing things he has effected towards enslaving this Country, makes me tremble for ours. Plausible, deep, treacherous, like his Master he has no passions to divert him no pursuits of pleasure to withdraw him from the recurred design of deliberately destroying the Liberty of this Country. A perfect adept in the arts of corruption indefatigable in the application of them, he effects great ends by means almost magical, because they are unseen. In four years he has overcome the most formidable opposition in this Country, from which the Duke of Grafton fled with

tenor? 8 At the same time he has effectually
enslaved the East India Company, & made
the vast revenue & territory of India in
effect a royal patronage. Flush'd with
these successes, he now attacks America
certainly if we are not both, firm and
wise, he will triumph in the same
manner over us. In my
ual resolution of the Colonies to break
off all commercial intercourse with
this Country, with they are seized on
their liberties, is the only advisable
& sure mode of defence; & execute
such a Resolution would be welcome a
first; but you would be amply repaid
not only in the
independent spirit this step would give to
Merchants, but in securing your own
Liberties. You are however more capa
ble of judging, what is proper & practica
ble. My great wish is to see you firmly
united.

To the Right Honourable the Lords Spiritual & Temporal in Parliament Assembled.

The Humble Petition of Several Natives of America —

Sheweth

That your Petitioners being Natives of his Majestys Dominions in America, are deeply interested in every proceeding of this Right Honourable House, which touches the Life, Liberty or Property of any Person or Persons in the said Dominions. —

That your Petitioners conceive themselves, and their fellow Subjects, to be entitled to the Rights of Natural Justice, and to the common Law of England as their unalienable Birthright — That they apprehend it to be an invariable Rule of Natural Justice, that no Man shall be condemn'd unheard, and that according to Law no Person or Persons can be Judg'd without being call'd upon to answer, and being permitted to hear the Evidence against them, & to make their Defence.

That it is therefore with the deepest concern they understand that there is now before this Right Honourable House, a Bill of Pains and Penalties to be inflicted on the Town of Boston, for a Trespass committed by some Persons unknown upon the property of the East India Company; without the said Town having been apprized of any accusation being brought against them, or permitted to hear the Evidence, if there be any, or to make their defence.

That the Bill takes away immediately from the inhabitants of the Town, the use of property, to the amount of several Hundred Thousand Pounds, vested in Quays, Wharfs, Stores, &c; — That it will restrain many thousand of his

Majestys

Majestys Subjects from subsisting themselves and their Familys by their usual employments. That it will punish the innocent, for the guilty, even should all the reparation required by the Bill be made, the restoration of that property, or any part of it, is suffered to depend solely, upon the will of the Crown.

Your Petitioners conceive such proceeding to be directly repugnant to every principle of Law & Justice, and that under such a precedent, no Man, or body of Men cou'd enjoy a moments Security. For if Judgment be immediately to follow an accusation, the accus'd unacquainted with the charge, and debarr'd from defending themselves every fence against false accusations will be pull'd down Justice will no longer be a Sheild, nor innocence an exemption from punishment.

Your Petitioners beg leave to represent, that the Law in America ministers redress for any Injury sustain'd there, and they can most truly affirm, that it is administer'd in that Country, with as much impartiality, as in any other part of his Majestys Dominions. In proof of this they appeal to an Instance of great notoriety; in which, under every circumstance that cou'd exasperate the Populace, and disturb the course of Justice; Capt. Preston and his Soldiers had a fair trial, and a favourable Verdict. The due course of Law thus manifestly holding out redress, they cannot but consider the interposition of Parliamentary Power to be as unnecessary, as it is Arbitrary, and unjust.

Your Petitioners conceive that this Right Honourable House being the supreme Judicature of this Nation, are too well acquainted with the inviolable Rules of Justice, to require any further objections to the Bill against the Town of Boston now under consideration.

They therefore trust and Pray

that this Right Honourable House will not Pass a Bill which is to condemn and punish persons unheard, and therefore deprived of that privilidge, which every principle of Justice, and every practice of Law, allows to the meanest Individual.—The privilidge of hearing, and controverting the Evidence against Him, and of maintaining his Innocence.

And Your Petitioners as in Duty Bound will ever Pray.

Thatched House Tavern, London, March 26 1774.

The above is a litteral Copy of a Petition this day drawn up & signed here by the Sheriffs of London, Doctor Franklin, R. Izard, Wm Middleton Esqrs, Col. Lawrence & many other of the first Gentlemen of South Carolina, The Hon.ble John Ellis, one of the Council of Jamaica & worth at least £20,000 ster. An: Arthur Lee Esqr & many other Gentlemen of the several Colonies of N.o Carolina viz. Maryland, Pensylvania, New York & the several New England Governments, & is to be presented on Monday next the 28th instant to the House of Lords.

Witness. William Lee.

Petition of Mrs
Shippen

Most sincerely do I congratulate my dear Brother, on his
possession of that retirement, in which only, true tran-
quility & happiness can be enjoyed. Would to heaven,
I could participate in the blissful retreat!—

Where Peace, with ever blooming Olive, crowns
The gate; where Honor's liberal hands dispense
Unenvied treasures, & the snowy wings
Of Innocence & Love protect the scene.

May providence watch over you, & protect you
from that Alarum which, according to the Poet
This thickest shades pursues the fond of Peace.
How ought I to lament, that my fortune thus tem-
per are perpetually combatting against my in-
clination & my judgment. No man can see, in
a more amicable light, nor feel a stronger desire
of enjoying retirement, than I: yet unhappily,
my fate has thrown me into public life, & the
impetuosity of my disposition makes me em-
bark in it with all the impetuosity & compre-
dence, which increase the evils to which it is
necessarily subject. The pursuit is as endless, as
it is turbulent & deceitful. One bubble is no
sooner burst, than another rises with something
new to engage & agitate it's deluded pursuers.

You will judge by this time, that I have nothing to say of my own situation or myself, which can pay the benevolent wishes you have the goodness to entertain for me. In my distresses you will, also too soon sympathize, for they are felt for our Country. The Parliament are now bringing the question to their decision, which makes me tremble for the virtue, the character, the liberties of my countrymen. They have heard an Act, to take away the Port of Boston, till every compensation is made for the Tea, & perfect obedience is acknowledged. And then it is to be restored in such portions as the King pleases. What makes this more alarming is, that no accusation is brought against the town, no evidence produced to criminate them; & it is allowed that this is the first step towards reducing all America to an acknowledgement of the right of Parliament to impose taxes upon her, & to submit to the exercise of that right.

The Americans who are here, have thought it of so much consequence, that

they have petitioned the three Branches of the Legislature against passing such a Bill; but, as you may imagine, without success.

The next proceeding against Boston & the Province, is already announced in the H. of Commons. The Select men & town meetings are to be abolished. The Governor is to be endued with the power of calling the Citizens together, when & for what purposes he pleases, they are not to deliberate on any thing but what he dictates. The Council & Judges are to be suspended at the Governors pleasure. The constitution of Juries is to be altered, so as to render them more manageable in finding Bills & Verdicts against the friends of Liberty.

We are just informed, that General Gage is going over immediately, with three Regiments as Governor of the Massachusetts, & Commander in chief. That he is to collect an Army about Boston in order to enforce these measures & reduce them to entire obedience.

The storm, you see, runs high; it will require great prudence, wisdom & resolution to save our Liberties from shipwreck. In my opinion, there ought to be a general Congress of the Colonies; & Philadelphia, or Annapolis, would be the place where it would be less liable to

military interruption, than at New York or Philadelphia. If you have virtue enough to resolve & execute the resolution, of stopping your Exports & Imports for one year, this Country must do you justice. The Shipping & Manufactures & Revenues depend so much upon the Tobacco & Carolina Colonies, that they alone, by stopping their exports would force redress. Such a measure should be attended with an Address to the Merchants Traders & Manufacturers of this Country, stateing the necessity which compels you to a measure, injurious to them; proposing every thing that will flatter & conciliate them. Such a measure operating at the General Election, which will be next April, would most probably produce such a return of Members as would listen to truth, & redress, not so much our grievances, as their own.

This is the only effectual measure I can conceive. If there is not virtue enough for it, I am afraid American liberty is no more, for you may depend upon it, that if they find the chains can be easily imposed, they will make them heavy & rivet them fast.

It is impossible for me to discribe, how much I am grieved at these proceedings, & with what anxiety I look forward to the event. You know I always doubted the virtue of my

town, by men. God grant, that I may be mistaken - that by a wise, temperate & firm conduct, they may escape the blow intended & preserve their freedom. The friends of Liberty here, look toward your conduct with great anxiety. They consider it as decisive, either to establish or overturn the present plan of despotism.

There is a spirit of insolence, injustice & persecution in administration against every active friend to America, which makes that character perilous. I cannot see that any service can be done to the cause here; till the event of these measures is seen, & the popular prejudices begin to abate. I therefore determined to withdraw myself by taking the advantage of a favorable opportunity of visiting Rome, for some months; from whence however I shall return sooner, if any great event should

hold out a probability of my being useful.

Mrs. Lee well knows the power of praise, & how ambitious it is to be of mention in it from her. But alas, I have not the powers of pleasing. Horror only dwells upon my imagination. Public corruption at present, & public calamity in future are the dismal objects which incessantly fill my mind. The busy haunts of men, furnish more to lament, than to rejoice in; to censure, than to praise. They are filled with scenes of false happiness, & real misery; vanity of vice, & wretchedness. It is in rural retirement, pure innocence, moral tranquillity, which excite an uninterrupted flow of virtue; enviable & delightful. In those pleasing scenes, the perturbed spirits settle into a calm, productive of more real happiness, than all the splendour of fortune, & the pomps of power can bestow. It is there the golden age returns, & all things into the heart inspire the spirit of Love & of delight. My best love attends her — remember me at Mount Airy — Stratford, Chantilly, & wherever else you think the mention of me will not be disagreeable.

Adieu

April 2. 1784

My Dr Sr

London 1 Sept 1774.

I shall soon give you a thunder-
-ing letter on business, at present have only time to say
a ——— ; & to beg you will endeavor to procure a congress
of all the Colonies, before y? assembly is dissolved, which
you may be assured there is orders gone over for,
if you enter on Politics; The times are most
critical nothing but a firm & united system of oppo-
-sition can save you from Slavery; & finally, this
country. The 4 Colonies of S? & N? Carolina, Virg?
& Maryland, staying their comerce here for one year
alone, will do the business. This is meant to send no
Tob? or any thing else here, nor to take any British
goods. I am clear it is a thing easily to be accomplish
-ed with willing minds; & as clear, it will in the end
tend to the particular pecuniary advantage of each
Colony. For Heavens & the sake of Freedom be
unanimous in the support of Boston, or else you
are all inevitably Slaves. Thank God, the prospect
is strong of a War with France in twelve months
& then you may have a fair op.? of obtaining Justice.
One plan wh? be, to make no remittance whatever to? Merch? here,

Col. Francis Lightfoot Lee

My Dear Brother.

London 21 April 1774

I inclosed you have Acc.t Sale for your 12 hhds of Tob.o rec.d last year ff. the Liberty Drayton net proceeds £123.18.8 to your credit which considering the state of things here cannot be called bad sales, however that I will venture to assert that no Merch.t in London could have made more of them.

You will find among your goods ff. Robertson, 3 peices of India silk handkerchiefs, which are intended for my own use, & I must beg my Sister of Wmsburg will be so good as to have them made up, but not marked, & sent back to me in a paper parcel sealed & directed to me by Capt. Roman or any other Capt. that will engage to deliver them to me himself. The few goods you ordered Capt. ff. Dulkinson, are now sent ff. the Jill, Capt. Gibson am.t as ff. Invoice &c inclosed £8.4.6 to my debit which them safe to hand. I am sorry there is a probability of Browne being longer in the Country than his lys days, his owner will give no mercy so that I know the worst must submit. The 9th of Feb.y ff. Grant writes to me thus "I lately wrote by 13 Ships to Mr. Lee, to know how your ships went on in loading, when I receive his answ.r, if she is not near loaded, will send Tob.o to fill her up".

Should such letter get to hand I cannot doubt your taking him at his word & ordering the Tob.o round, as it can come in Roman if Warren is full. If the Trusts do not remit their Summer Sales I shall undoubtedly send you authentic documents to bring immediate suit ag.t them. Tho Triplett & Co have not

remitted one half of what has now been due 3 Months, still they have done much better than A. Mure who has not remitted 1/5 part & I am afraid he means to shuffle, by talking of being allowed for his Tob.o in Brown before it gets here. I find it is certainly a fact that when Brown arrived, both Mitchells & Dutchmans loadsmen were fully engaged, therefore in what ships could he send his Tob.o to me sooner than in Brown only Cockerill could take it in, who had not one third on board the 10th of Feb.y & I am sure will not sail sooner as Brown. However I shall never object to allow him what is reasonable & right, but beg you will send me by Romance copy of every Security you have taken for me & every engagement you have entered into on my Acct., with my Acct Curt ag.st me. You say I am not to expect any thing from Virg.a this Summer, if that prove the case, I augur every thing that is bad, for I cannot think of involving any person in my misfortunes. If remittances enable me to weather this summer I do not propose to ship (except) for any but Mr Smith, Triplett & C.o & Jn.o Mills & not to them without Security. This you will please to give all my mercantile correspondents fully to understand, that I may not be plagued with solicitations or they be disappointed of their goods. I trust to your prudence & attention which I am sure can only save me from imbecilities. My Comp.ts to Mr Ritchie & let him know I have made Drayton give one from under his hand that he will pay the Acct. you sent me when he returns, if he does not pay it to Mr Ritchie in Virg.a this voyage.

of all the bills you remitted me on Acct. of Hipkins & Co. value £181.3.6. only the two small ones are good, viz. J. W. Giberne on W. Mollison Esq. 3.6. & W. Bialle on Jn Backhouse in Liverpool £12, ——— The two, on myself viz. J. W. Giberne for £60. & Wm Smith £10. not being endorsed by Mr Hipkins to whom they are payable, cannot be charged to the drawers, nor can he, have credit for them; The other two viz. Pitman Clements on Shyndman & Co for £60 the same on D. Campbell for £30, are both noted for non acceptance so that his great remittance is not quite £21. as 2/6 p£ must be deducted for Exch.a &c, on the bill on Liverpool. You shall have a full state of H. & T.'s Acct as soon as the last Tob.o H. has sent in Dutchman is sold which will be in a month or thereabouts & then give him no quarter. I shall not be displeased, if you find it necessary, for allowing the Gent. who are not indebted p ship two.o tome to draw moderately after the ships has sailed & at as long a sight as possible. It is very comon for bills now, on the out port, to be at 120 days sight. I must acknowlige your last letter of Feb. 23.d & 25. vexed me; I did hope that you knew me better, & could not even for a moment suspect me of so much folly as to entrust so material a business as fixing an Agent, with Col. Phil, especially without consulting you or Mr. H. ———

By this time you will have rec.d my letter J. Roman & will be convinced of the misinformation, The Truth is, I wish most sincerely you wo.d alone undertake the office & say plainly what you think will be an adequate compensation; I will share any thing with you. Col. Phil. has not, nor ever had

any authority from me to engage an agent, tho' he has frequently solicited such authority; but you must know him well enough; whatever he has settled in his own crazy head, he gives out to the world as being absolutely fixed.

I find that Mr Jett is to be continued in the service of Barlow & Co & Mr Holland, the Browns father in law, to whom all the debts in Mr Jetts hands were assigned some time ago. I am told they intend to send Mitchell out some time hence in a ship of Mr Penn — this now and good for Captain Cockburn so that I have no other chance for a Capt for Rapk but Cockburn, but I fear his ship is too large & that the[y] will not wait till it is a convenient time for me to send a ship to Rapk. If you approve of Roman, his ship is a good one for Potomack & I will send him out again next winter. Pray inform me particularly who was the Mr Lee's father, that you that of for an agent & under whom he was bred to business. I hope, notwithstanding your discouraging letter, you will be able to procure some good remittances to be made to me this winter, for in truth they are become more necessary now than ever. You have inclosed an extract of Stephens last letter, dated the day after yours when you inclosed the bills you rec[d] from him, by which you will see his principles clearly. Our Love to your Sister & am ever affectionately & Sincerely Yours,

William Lee

W. Lee 1781

Sir, Chantilly in Virg.a 30th April 1774

Since my letter to you of December the 6th last, I have not been favored with any from you, and soon, in a few days, I shall go to Williamsburg, where our Assembly will be convened on the 4th of next month. There we shall remain, I suppose, until the end of June, during which time, should any material information from Parliament or Administration, Boston I should be glad to have particular intelligence from you. At the same time, it will be highly conducive to the General good, that your Corresponding Committee write a Public Letter to Ours on any such occasion. I am led to suppose that an event may be called for in consequence of the well deserved fate which befel the Tea sent up, in the Northern Colonies, and which I see has so moved the Spleen of some ill judging Writers in the Public Advertiser, as to induce them to persuade the adoption of harsh measures against America. Happy for us if every Colony may be to the opinion of our Tory Ministers, yet I think two considerations will secure the quiet of the British Empire against the effects of their despotism- The extreme difficulty of fixing on any plausible mode of resentment and the approaching General election in England. The wise & good in Britain are too well convinced of the demerited abuse we have received for 10 or 12 years past not to dread the consequences from an American dispute fatal to the views of a new Ministry at a general election. Two days since came to my hands a letter from London dated Jan.y 29. 1774 in which the Gentleman says "I have just come from the Privy Council, where the Petition from the House of Representatives in Massachusets Bay praying for the removal of Gov.r Hutchinson & Lt. Gov.r Oliver was enforced by Mr. Dunning & Councillor Lee. The Gov.rs were vindicated by Wedderburne who was exceedingly abusive of the N. England & Rhode Islanders, calling them factious, seditious, disaffected, and even rebellious, in short I never heard a Man speak for two hours so very little to the purpose expecting the case before the Council, or more insolently abusive of persons whom he thought of different sentiments from himself. Dunning was very unwell, however in his reply he gave the N. Britons some smart wipes. The Board was very full & the Room exceedingly crowded. I do not yet know the Council report." The truth is Sir, that we have only to be cool, firm, and united, to secure as well

(No 57) R. H. Lee to Sam[l] Adams

ourselves as our fellow subjects beyond the water from a
systematic plan of despotism, that has already April 20th 1774 fallen with
a heavy hand on every part of the Empire, only N. Britain
may be excepted, the Inhabitants of which Country are much
favored indeed, and yet the most accurate Searcher into
their history can find no peculiar merits that they have
with the reigning family.

I am with very particular esteem
Sir Your most humble & obedient Servant
To Samuel Adams Esq[r] Richard Henry Lee
Boston

(No 228)

No. 228

My Dear Sir, [illegible] No 15 Boston April 1774

Capt Wood being still detaind I have the opportunity of acknowledging your favor of the 22d Dec. last, which is just now come to my hand. As Mr Cushing received your Letter of the same date near three weeks ago, I am at a loss to conjecture the reason of my not receiving it at the same time.

I do not depend much upon L. Dartmouth's inclination to relieve America on terms we shall think honorable; Upon his ability to do it I have no dependence at all. He might have said with safety, when called upon by Lord Shelburne that he had prepared a plan which he was resolved to pursue at the hazard of his Office; for I have reason to believe it was [illegible] upon the hopes that we could be prevailed upon [illegible] implicitly to renounce our claims. This would have been an acceptable service to the Ministry, & would have secured to him his Office — No great advantage can be made against us from the Letters which you mention to Lord Dartmouth from the two Houses of our Assembly, for upon a review of it, I think the most that is said in it is, that if we are brought back to the State we were in at the close of the last war, we shall be as easy as we then were. I do not like any thing that looks

(No 15) Sam Adams to Arthur Lee
April 11 1775.

looks like accomodating our language to the humours (No 3)
of Ministers; & I am fully of your opinion that the Har-
mony & concurrence of the Colonies is of a thousand times
more importance in our dispute, than the friendship
or patronage of any great Man in England.

At the request of our friend Mr Hancock I beg your
acceptance of an Oration delivered by him on the 5th of
March last. I intend to write to you again very soon
in the mean time I remain — Yours assured Friend

(Signd) Sam Adams

1775

Adams

No 3

Arthur Lee Esqr.

(No 60)

Gentlemen

New York May 23d 1774.

The alarming measures of the British Parliament relative to your Antient & respectable Town which has so long been the Seat of Freedom fills the Inhabitants of this City with inexpressible concern. As a Sister Colony suffering in defence of the Rights of America we consider your Injuries as a common Cause, to the redress of which it is Equally our Interest Duty & your Interest to contribute, But what ought to be done in a Situation so truly Critical, while it employs the anxious thoughts of every generous mind, is very hard to be determind, our Citizens have thought it necessary to appoint a large Committee consisting of fifty one Persons to correspond with our Sister Colonies on this & every other Matter of Publick moment; and at Ten o'Clock this forenoon we were first assembled. Your Letter Inclosing the Vote of the Town of Boston & the Letter of your Committee of correspondence were immediately taken into consideration. While we think you justly intitled to the thanks of your Sister Colonies for asking their Advice in a

Case

Case of such extensive consequences we lament our inability to relieve your Anxiety by a decisive opinion. The Cause is general & concerns a whole Continent who are equally Interested with you & us; and we foresee that no remedy can be of avail unless it proceed from the joint Act & approbation of all; from a Virtuous & Spirited Union much may be expected; while the feeble efforts of a few will only be attended with mischief & disappointments to themselves & triumph to the Adversaries of our Libaty. Upon these reasons we conclude that a Congress of Deputies from the Colonies in general is of the utmost moment; that it ought to be Assembled without Delay and some unanimous Resolutions formed in this fatal Emergency not only respecting your deplorable circumstances, but for the Security of our common Rights. Such being our Sentiments it must be premature to pronounce any judgement on the expedient which you have suggested. We beg however that you will do us the justice to believe that we shall continue to Act with a firm & becoming Regard to American freedom, and to co-operate with our Sister Colonies in every Measure which shall be thought Salutary and conducive to the Publick Good. We have nothing to add but that we Condole with you Sincerely

you in your unexampled Distresses; and to request your speedy opinion of the proposed Congress that if it should meet with your approbation we may exert our utmost Endeavours to carry it into Execution. —

To the Comittee of Correspondence for the Town of Boston

By order of the Comittee of Correspondence.

The foregoing is a true Copy. —

Isaac Sears

New York Com.tee
to Boston

No. 3.
Committee of Corre
of N. York
of Boston

Correspondence
of that
Committee
with
Committee of Inspection
&
Observation
of Boston
May 25th 1774

(No 3.)

(1760)

[London, Sept. 1847]

Franklin

June 3d. 1774, Lord Dartmouth wrote to General Gage, that he had seen the copies of two letters, one from Dr. Franklin, dated July 7th 1773, and the other from Arthur Lee, dated Dec. 25th of the same year, written in London.

"Both these letters," he adds, "have, I understand, been read in the Assembly, and are expressed in such terms, as make it very much to be wished that such evidence could be obtained of the authenticity of them as might be the grounds of a proper proceeding thereupon. You will, therefore, use your best endeavors, with the secresy and caution that the nature of the case requires to procure either the originals or some regular attested copies of those letters, and transmit them to me by the first opportunity."

From the preceding extract it appears that there were persons in the Assembly, who acted a double part. The copies could only have been obtained by some member of the Assembly. Whether they were forwarded to Lord Dartmouth with an anonymous communication, or through the medium of Governor Hutchinson is uncertain; probably the latter, as Gov. H. had before sent copies of some of Franklin's letters to the ministers.

Col. Francis Lightfoot Lee.

London 5 June 1774

It gives me a good deal of pain to reflect that I shd be the occasion of one moments uneasiness to my Dear Brother, which I found had been the case on receiving yr two favors of March 27 & 31, yesterday by the Nelly Frigate; however by this time you will find that respecting the Agency & Mr. Smith the goods every thing is, as you cd wish, but what will you say on reading my violent letter to you R. H. about the Steward at Green Spring — Was I to be in your way, I could expect nothing less than to be carbonadoed. I thought you could not forget my warmth & quickness of disposition which urges me to express my feelings, perhaps too bluntly, & often carrys me farther than calm & temperate reason will warrant; but from you who was calmness and Philosophy itself, any appearance of displeasure affects me much. I really have been wonderfully perplexd for some months past with the prospect of things, which urged me to more quickness than common indeed rendered it peculiarly difficult to determine what was best to be done. From the appearance of circumstances both Public & Private, I do not see the view brighten at all, but like a wretch long immured in a Dungeon, habit, has made my feelings more callous; for it is no alleviation to me to consider, that my situation, bad as it is, is enviable when compared to some others in the Tob.o trade. I will proceed to answer yr favors.

I approve of yr engagement with Mr. Smith, as I can rely on yr Judgement, but the time taken for payment of the Linen drapery goods as I cannot get so long credit in London. Mr. Trents case was a particular one, he had order'd the goods, they were packd up. Mrs. Paynes had no other orders, & they were

were obliged by Mr. Trent to agree to 15 Mos. Credit, on being allowed interest after 12 Mos., or keep their goods, which last wd. have been very injurious to them, as the quantity was above £2,000. & they had no other orders to apply them to; therefore they were compell'd to allow the 3 Mos. extraordinary time. I endeavord to buy the linens already sent Mr. Smith on the same terms but cou'd not do it, therefore I sh'd think, on this matter being clearly explain'd to Mr. Smith, he will, as a Man of Honor, readily agree to the alteration of making the linen drapery goods pay.e in 12 Months; for I do assure you it is the wildest chimera imaginable to suppose that goods can be bo't in London for 18 Months Credit. I shall send his Fall goods, but if there has, or may be, any mistake I disclaim all blame, for his Invoice to distinguish the Fall from the Spring goods, was mark'd so, that I cou'd not understand it, & therefore the operation was all guess work.

I am fully satisfied with the disposal of the goods & Roman & hope the Gentlemen will not be quite so tardy with their remittances as they have been. It is necessary in order to enable me to make out their several interest Accounts distinctly, that you sh.d furnish me as soon as you can with copies of their bonds, also of those taken last year from Triplett & Co. & M.t Muse. To this last Gent.n I do not think at present of furnishing any more goods without your recommendation. £800. of Trent's goods were due the 30 Apl., £400 the 25 May last, & the linen drapery £2000, the 30 of July next: He has not sent me one shilling nor wrote me a line, since the letter of which I sent you an extract. There is no credit I find to be given to what he says or writes, therefore I wd. wish, if it is convenient for you, as soon as this gets to hand, to sue the several partners, at least such as can be caught in the limits of York Court or the Hustings in Williamsburg, unless you have bills of Exch.e or bills of Loading for Tob.o shipd. home, or notes for Tob.o to ship on their Account. Trent is ungrateful, for he & his Brother have both commended the goods as well bought, & D.d T. wrote me, he had sold them all for so good an advance, that he sh.d clear more money last year by them, than he had lost the year before. ——

Suppose H. Muir ships a Mutch in your hands 250 hhds of Tobo rating them at £8. p. hhd, which is as much as the Tobo he generally buys is worth at the present market, they will not pay for at least £1250. that has bundove above 4 Mos & that remittance if it comes cannot put me in cash in less than 8 Mos from this time, so that instead of one he takes 2 years credit, & this he calls punctuality; "a plague on such punctuality say I." Would it not be Justice to let them know, that in the least offensive manner possible, that they are not to expect any more goods from me, which will certainly be the case unless you have reason to recommend them; for my own part I do not conceive it possible for them to make money situated as they are, where the Tobo is so wretchedly bad that they must ever loose by it. I think you your Bro & H. L. have been very judicious in the plans you pursued respecting Brown & Roman; accidents we must submit to. It appears to me that, a small ship to be in Potos or Rapk of abt 2, or 300 hhds, any time in July or Augt might readily get loaded with the present crop, without trenching in the least on the next years plans, as I am convinced there will be no cash price in the country this year & if I can prevail on myself to risk the giving you any farther plague this year & can get a small vessel to sail in 15 or 20 days, I really think I shall send one; but of this you shall know farther in due time. 'Tis true I have protested some of Mr Spotswoods bills, & if I had not done so you must have that me more mad in paying them than he was in drawing them. I believe no Merch in London has paid so many bills last year in proportion to our trade as I have done. If Mr Armistead, has flown the way as you suspect, I shall have a worse opinion of his understanding than ever, Hutts & Roys Tobo I have ordered to be insured as you direct, but pray make it a rule to send me bills of loading for all Tobo consigned to me by some other opty than the ship in which it comes. I have not rec'd any bill of loading for the Tobo in

in Mitchell or Dutchman except from Mr. Jett & J. Willis.—

Barlow & Co. & Holland it seems are fixed to continue the Ludr store under Mr. Jett & Mitchell is to be the Capt. so that all my well designed plan in that quarter is at an end, I am afraid.

You have been before advised of the Fate of the Bills you remitted on Acct. of Hopkins, please to get him to endorse Mr. Gilbert & Mr. Smith's bills on myself & remit the 3d. which you have now & when you let me know what Exchange he shall have credit for your Acct. of £40 Curry.

The other bills he has credit for, as I choose to take the protests to myself which are inclosed viz.

Pl.	Clements on	Hyndman & Co.	dated	21 Dec. 73	prod. for £19.15.2 Chs. 5/9.
Do.	Do.	on D. Campbell	Do.	30 Aug. Do.	Do. 12.5.1. Do. 5/9.
					£32.0.3

Making in the whole £32.0.3 & 11/6 Chs. to Debit of yr. Agency Acct. & beg you to let me know the day they are rec'd that I may know how to charge the Damages. Three things I wish you to get, if possible, an explicit answer from the Staunch Squire upon, for he won't give me one. What I am to charge him on Acct. of Harrisons debt whether I am to charge him with the money advanced Tho. Stepto[n] & what he has sold the woman's saddle for, that was sent him p. Payson last year?

June 7. I have this moment rec'd advice of the Eliza Capt. Brown's arrival at Dover in 36 days from the capes of Virg[a] with 429 hds. Tob[o] home, his letters are not come up, therefore shall say nothing on that head. I have said enough, & more than enough considering there is a bill before the H. of Comons, big with the fate of this Country & America; 'tis respecting the limits & governm[t] of Quebec. I do not trouble you with Politics, having fatigued you with private business; but if I have time will write on that Subject to Wm. H. to whom I shall refer you, as I suppose you frequently meet as usual. Our Br. Templar is on a Tour to France & Italy, so that my hands are perfectly full. Our Love to our Dr. Sister, Farewell. William Lee

Col. R. H. Lee. (№61)

My Dear Brother London 7 June 1774.

Since my last of May 14. by Capt. Johns to Potomack, I have rec.d your favors of the 2.d & 20th March the last by the Nelly Frigate who arrived in the Downs the 4th Instant & the Eliza arrived there this day; yours & Col. G. Lee's estates Tob.o is not yet insured, if it is in Brown, which I shall know in a day or two as soon as he gets up, 'tis well, if not I will insure in Norman. Mr. Bell's Tob.o was insured according to y.r first order & you shall have credit for his order, but why did you not indorse it? Parker's bill on Ballantine was £67.0.1 not £57.1. as you make it, you mention 429 dollars, our Br. London 329. I presume you are right. If you have paid Mr. Turner what he esteems value for £100. Ster.g it had better stand so & I will just give you credit for that sum paid him, but if this does not please your Worship it shall be alter'd to your own plan & then it will stand thus 429 Dollars at 17 p.w. 8.d each 371. 16 ob.l p.w. @ 5/2½ ff. Oz. £96.8.8

26 f. Virg.a Cur.cy @ 30 ff.l Exch.a 1.0.0

£97.8.8

so that your Dollars will be remitted at 33 ff.l Exch.a instead of 30. without including freight, Insurance & Com.n, therefore Dollars will never do for a remittance while the Exch.a does not exceed 35 ff.l & you take them at 6 f. Cur.cy a piece. I have look'd over my letters & Invoices & cannot find when or when you order'd the Chairs, Shoes & Paint, however they shall be sent by the first opp.y. I shall write you about the Agent

in good time ye shall urge mr Bowyer by bond &c Jones Acct; this
Gentleman has left W. haven & mr Hicks Esq: has kindly
undertaken the care of them in his stead. Mess Maitland & mr
Didsbury cannot get any thing here, they wait for the Councils
opinion which you were to send from Virg.a whether the
action will lye under the act of Assembly, they are divided here
that it will, but propose when y.r State & Councils opinion
come over to consult m.r Dunning & be govern'd by his
opinion. You will be surely remburs'd all expences, in
any event, they have only rec.d one letter each from you.
J. Stuart is advancing in Riches fast in
Bengal & writes that he has got T. Steptoe a birth in
a Country ship. I am much pleased with yours & our Bp.s
Loudouns management of Bowyer & Roman I am exceed-
ingly obliged by y.r trip to Fredericks. I hope you will
not forget to tell me how you like Roman. I shall certainly
follow y.r advice in not extending the Cargoe but send y.r
remittances for what have been sent come tolerably this sum-
mer I shall do well enough: for this, I must rely on you
& Loudouns joint & active friendship: You will be informed
before this that your draft to I. Russell was paid when due; those whose
bills have been protested must not, may cannot blame me; I. R. kept
the destination of the Caroline a secret from me, I believe with design
to prevent my writing by her. About the Gl. Spiritg affairs I have
before wrote fully & if you still think me too warm respecting
the present Steward, you must excuse me, & wait a year or so to see
if my apprehensions are not justified. I will not mix business
& Politics, but if I have time ag.t this ap.y will give you a touch on
that head, which I have no doubt you will communicate to our
Bp.r Loudoun. I am sincerely Y.r most affect.e Fr.d & Bp.r William Lee

P.S. Our Best Love to our D.r Sister & the Children. Our B.r Templer is on a tour to France & Italy. The Prod.n of Rayvon last year averaged within 4/. £6. ₰ hhd. I wish to know if any Merch.t here has done better.
"

(1961)

Wm Lee

June 7th 1774

(Private)

To

Rich.d Henry Lee Esq.r

Chantilly

Potomac

Virginia

Wm Lee Esq.r

Mr Didsbury's

First Front Door

Favoured by

Mr Lee

Colo: Fran: Light: Esq.

London 30 June 1774

My dear Brother!

Capt. Brown brot me y: favor of Apr: 20th & Inds Sob: Accept my warmest thanks for the care you have taken in my affairs. I shall write you in a few days by the Nelly Frigate therefore shall be concise now. Sinclair is wrong as I shall write him & inclose it to you; be so good as to send me Col: Sayloe's order or else I cannot credit Hopkins &c. or charge it to Col. Sayloe, I cannot send M.r Glascocks goods or any others persons without your recommendation & acceptable security being given, of this please to inform M.r Will.m Roane who writes me, that himself & his B.r Sho: will order a Cargoe if I will send it, to sell at their Mill; wont they interfere with our friend M.r Smith? I believe they will be sufficient Men, but you will know best, & if you approve, & they will give security on my plan with Trent, only that the Linnens goods must be paid for in 12 Mos I shall have no objection, always giving liberty to remit in Sob: or good Bills. Whatever Bills you remit, pray make the person paying them, to you endorse them blank. I hope you will be successful in getting something to remit me & that you will advise me what ships to send out for next season, If I do not hear from you & the exportation of Sob is not stopd, which is universally expected here I shall send one to be with you in Jan.y &

another to be with you in Apr. as to an Agent I shall certainly be with you next summer when that busineys can be finally settled as well as some other affairs of great importance of which I shall write more fully soon. Our Sisters Gown Hat are sent Value £1. 2. 9 to y. debet & in the Box are pamphletts & Magazine's for you, for farther political intelligence refer to our Brother R H Lee as every thing of that sort from me is intended for you both. Hopkins shall have credit by you for £26 Sterling. I am this moment called away so Heaven protect you all, Farewell. ——— William Lee

(Copy)

P S. there is a parcel for our Br. R. H Lee in Mr. Lees box which please to contrive to him, and in the same are your own papers.

My Dear Brother.

London 12 July 1774.—

You have now a copy of my last ff Mitchell since which have not rec.d a line from you, tho' perceive you could find time to subscribe the advice to the People after y.r dissolution as a political body. The Treasurer has now given a proof of his very great influence over your body as a M. of B. for he has set you all to prayers, to make good boys of you — I tell you again & again that the Liberty & well being of America depends on Virginia, but I confess my spirits are not quite so elate as they were, because there appears too much canting, & milkiness in some, who I am afraid will prevail. You will know the 1.st of Aug.t what I mean. If you have not done it before this gets to Hand, I beg you will immediately ~~as soon as this gets to hand~~ give me y.r advice by several opp.tys, what ships I must send out for next season, to what Rivers & at what time you wd have them to be in the Country; since it will be impossible for me to judge, from the uncertainty of y.r public proceedings. I wish also for a particular Acc.t of what money & from whom, either Brown or Roman receives for my use, that I may easily settle with them. By Roman I shall expect a copy of y.r Acc.t with me & as I suspect he will not sail in time, it is to be wished you may take the precaution of sending me a protest ag.st his proceedings, as the delay must be owing to himself; without such precaution he will surely claim demorrage. Excuse me for so often mentioning remittances to you; I wd not do it, was not my situation very precarious & indeed must be very disagreeable unless those indebted will do the common Justice. Hopkins has not wrote or sent me any thing since by the Noble Bounty — Triplet, is very tardy, so are the Mussels, & even Mills is much behind his time. The last of Trumbs goods are due in a few days & none of his Comp.y have sent me one shilling. The most of their goods were ship'd in Ap.l 1773, from this state, you can easily judge how I am furnish'd for want of money

& have no other dependance but on your assiduity in procuring remittances to be made to me & that very speedily. ——— (D.r Flood is ungrateful in the Acc.t Cur.t sent above a years interest was omitted to induce him to pay the Ballance immediately, which having not done I must invert on full interest from the time he rec.d the money till his bill was valued & from thence on the Ballance due 'till he pay it. If he makes any objection I wish to have the matter without delay referr'd to a Jury, for which purpose you can bring suit & before it comes to tryal, you shall have his Acc.t regularly proved.

Similair refusal of paying Insurance & Interest, arises, I am sorry to say it, from no just principle; It is an invariable Rule to insure goods sent from hence without particular orders are given to the contrary; this as a merch.t he must, or least ought to, know; yet is strictly recoverable by Law ——— Insurance is charged only on his first Invoice, which was actually made; on his second there is none charged, as he forbid it. His pretext of not knowing what is due to me is equally fallacious, he had his Invoices & Acc.t Sales, only two articles on each side of the Acc.t, yet is not to be believed, that he, who has been a Merch.t for so many years could not find out the Ballance. He deducts from the Acc.t 11/5. & the Com. on his goods is 9/2; so that by laying out of my money, I am to loose 5/3 & his business. This is Scotch Gratitude & Scotch Justice. He ought to be made an example of, & be compell'd to pay by a warrant, as the sum will not admit any other process.

For fear you sh.d not be disposed to ride any more, I will only wish you and my Dear Sister a good morning & assure you of my constant & sincere affection. Farewell ——— William Lee.

Boston July 15th 1774

Sir,

I have lately been favour'd with three Letters from you, and must beg you, to attribute my omitting to make a due acknowledgment till this Time, to a Multiplicity of Affairs to which I have been oblig'd to give my constant attention.

The unrighteous and oppressive Act of the British Parliament for shutting up this Harbour, although executed with a Rigour beyond the Intent even of the Framers of it, has hitherto fail'd, and I believe will continue to fail of the Effect which the Enemies of America flatter'd themselves it would have. The Inhabitants still wear chearful Countenances. Far from being in the least Degree intimidated, they are resolved to undergo the greatest Hardships, rather than Submit in any Instance to the Tyrannical Act. They are daily encouraged to persevere, by the Intelligence which they receive from their Brethren not of this Province only, but of every other Colony, that they are consider'd as suffering in the common Cause; and the Resolution of all to support them in the Conflict. Lord North had no Expectation that we should be thus Sustained; on the Contrary he trusted that Boston would be left by all her Friends to Smuggle and fall alone. — He has therefore made no Preparation for the Effects of an Union. From the Information I have had from Intelligent Persons in England, I verily believe the Design was to seize some Persons here, and send them Home; but the Steadiness and Prudence of the People, and the unexpected Union of the Colonies, evidenced by liberal Contributions for our Support, have disconcerted them; and they are at a loss how to proceed further. Four Regiments are now encamp'd on our Common, and more are expected; but I trust the People will, by a circumspect Behaviour, prevent their taking occasion to Act. The Port Bill, is follow'd by two other Acts of the British Parliament; the one for regulating the Government of this Province, or rather to tally to destroy our free Constitution and substitute an absolute despotic Government in its Stead; the other for the

more

more impartial Administration of Justice or as some term it for the screening from Punishment any Soldier who shall murder an American for asserting his Right. A Submission to these Acts will doubtless be required and expected; but whether General Gage will find it an easy thing to force the People to Submit to so great and fundamental a change of Government, is a Question I think, worthy his Consideration — Will the People of America consider these Measures, as Attacks on the Constitution of an Individual Province in which the rest are not interested; or will they view the model of Government prepard for us as a System for the whole Continent. Will they, as unconcern'd Spectators, look upon it to be design'd only to lop off the exuberant Branches of Democracy in the Constitution of this Province? Or, as part of a Plan to reduce them all to Slavery? These are Questions, in my Opinion of Importance, which I trust will be thoroughly weighed in a general Congress — May God inspire that intended Body with Wisdom and Fortitude, and Unite and prosper their Councils!

The People of this Province are thoroughly sensible of the Necessity of breaking of all Commercial Connection with the Country whose political Councils direct to Measures to enslave them. They however consider the Body of the Nation, as being kept in profound Ignorance of the Nature of the Dispute between Britain and the Colonies; and taught to believe that we are a perfidious Rebellious People.

It is with Reluctance that they come into any Resolutions, which must distress those who are not the objects of their Resentment but they are urg'd to it from Motives of Self-preservation, and therefore are signing an agreement in the several Towns, not to consume any British Goods which shall be imported after the last of August next; and that they may not be imposd upon, they are to require an Oath of those from whom they shall hereafter purchase such Goods. It is the Virtue of the Yeomanry that we are chiefly to depend upon. Our Friends in Maryland talk of withholding the Exportation of Tobacco; this was first hinted to us by the Gentlemen of the late House of Burgesses of

Virginia

Virginia who had been called together after the Dissolution of your Assembly — This would be a Measure greatly interesting to the Mother Country.

Should America hold up her own Importance to the Body of the Nation and at the same Time agree in one general Bill of Rights, the Dispute might be settled on the Principle, and Harmony restored between Britain and the Colonies.

I am with great Regard
Your Friend & fellow Countr.
Samuel Adams

Richard Henry Lee Esq.
Virginia

Samuel Adams
Letter 15th July 1774

For
Richard Henry Lee Esqr
to the Care of Robt Carter Nicholas Esqr
in Williamsburgh
Virginia

BOSTON
JY 18

Mr. Adams
Letter July 15 1774
Stand Moseln Lea

47

Francis Lightfoot Lee Esqr

London 16 July 1774.

My Dear Brother.

Capt. Nicks now goes out a passenger in the Leland Capt. Darby, & as I cannot help thinking you will in Virginia cordially join the Marylanders in stopping the exportation of Tobo after a certain period, Capt. Nicks, if such resolution shd take place, has agreed to wait on you immediately, to be advised if you can load a ship for me in Potomack or Rapp[k] before the exportation is stop'd, & if one is to be got on charter you will please to take her up for that purpose & put Capt. Nicks into her, 'Tis impossible for me to be farther particular in this business as the whole must depend on the particular situation of things & circumstances which you on the spot can only judge of, therefore shall trust the transaction entirely to your prudence & discretion, only observing that in all probability, shd a non exportation of Tobo take place, it cannot continue above one year; because in that time the contest must be settled one way or other, & a ship load coming at so critical a period, will save me from the general devastation & the consignees from the increase of price will get as much from half a crop, as from the whole if there is no interruption in the trade. Should it be requisite to think of the above, in my opinion only our Br R. H. Lee & the Squire shd be consulted before it is put in Practice, & I wd not have you wait for Capt. Nicks if he does not come to you immediately on his arrival, as no time can be lost, if the scheme is put in Execution at all. G[d] Sincerely

William Lee

Francis Light: Lee Esqr

My D: Brother!

London 16 July 1771

Capt: Nicks now goes out a passenger in the Bland Capt: Danby & as I cannot help thinking you will ere Virg[a] cordially join the Marylanders in stopping the exportation of Tob: after a certain period, Capt: Nicks if such resolution shd: take place has agreed to wait on you immediately, to be advis'd if you can load a ship for me in Poto: or Rapk: before the exportation is stop'd, if one is to be got on Charter you will please to take her up for that purpose & put Capt Nicks into her, tis impossible for me to be farther particular in this Business as the whole must depend on the particular situation of things & circumstances which you on the spot can only judge of, therefore shall trust the transaction entirely to your prudence & discretion, only observing that in all probability, if a non exportation of Tob[o] take place, it cannot continue above one year, because in that time the contest must be settled one way or other & a ship load coming at so critical a [redacted] period will save me from the general devastation & the consigners, from the increase of price, will get as much from half a crop, as from the whole, if there is no interruption in the trade. Should it be requisite to think of the above in my opinion only our Br: R. H. Lee & the

Squire shd be consulted, before it is put in practice; & I w: no
have you wait for Capt: Nicks, if he does not come to you
immediately on his arrival, as no time can be lost if the
scheme is put in execution at all

Yr. &c — William [illegible]

Copy of an Original of Capt: Nicks who went Passenger
in the Bland Capt: Danby for James River

Franc: Light: Lee Esqr

London 16 July 1774

My dear Brother

Capt. Neeks goes out a passenger in my Bland in Virg^a capt: Lamby, & as I cannot help thinking you will cordially join the Marylanders in stoping the exportation of Tob^o after a certain period, capt: Neeks, if such resolution take place, has agreed to wait on you immediatly, to be advised if you can load a ship for me in Pato: or Rapp: before the exportation is stopd, if one is to be got on charter you will please to take her up for that purpose & put capt: Neeks into her, 'Tis impossible for me to be either particular in this business as the whole must depend on the particular situation of things & circumstances which you on the spot can only judge of, therefore shall trust the transaction entirely to y^r prudence & discretion, only observing that in all probability, sh: a non exportation be agreed on it cannot continue above one year, because in that time the contest must be settled one way or other, & a ship load coming at so critical a period will save me from the general devastation & the consigners from the increase of price will get as much from half a crop as from the whole, if there is no interruption in the trade. Should it be requisite to think of the above in my opinion

opinion only our Br. R. H. Lee & the Squire sh: be committed before it is put in practice; & I w: not have you wait for Capt: Nicks if he does not come to you immediately on his arrival as no time can be lost if the scheme is put in execution all — Yrs Sincerely — William Lee —

Copy of an original sent off. Capt: Nicks who went passenger in the Bland Capt: Danby for James River; a copy was also sent off the Nelly Frigate Capt: Wallace, bound first to Annapolis & from thence to Yeocomico in Potomack Virginia

Wm Lee Esq 1774

My Dear Lazy Brother.

London 30 July 1774.

I wish I had time enough to hurrah you a little — Not a scrape of a pen since Brown left you. Don't pretend my Dr. Sister is to blame for this; I know better; had you as much industry as she has, things wd. not go on so — But to Business Dr. Loudoun, time are not times to be idle.

I refer you to the copy enclosed, which you will execute if you think it practicable, provided a non exportation takes place & do not hesitate, in case you take up a ship, to take Tob°. on my own Acct. from Triplet & Co. The Misses Mills & Smith, provided they will instantly ship it on their own Acct. & will take a reasonable price, at present I think 16/. Ster. & ℔ Ct. full enough for Tob°. or Rapk. Purchased Tob°. ~~you must do~~ on the supposition of the short crop & the non exportation; but at all events 17/. Ster. is as high as in prudence one ought to go, for leaf & 16/8 or 17/. Cur.y for good strip'd. It will be of most decisive Service to me, if you can get Triplet, the Misses, Smith Mills & Hopkins to remit either in Bills or Tob°. before a stop is put to every thing. Mr. Lloyd may now be properly attended to, as his Cousin An — n is stop'd & it is now under deliberation with

him

Creditors whether he shall be a Bankrupt or his affairs be put under a Trust. You have several pamphlets just publish'd those directed you will please to forward to the several Gentlemen immediately & the Political letter to R. H. L. is left open for you to read & then forward, after sealing, to him with his packet. I beg yr attention to my several letters before writing shall by the first opty to Polo: or Rapk: send you the Invent: he'd proved & then write fully on that subject. Their goods are now very shilling due & not one farthing paid, Mr Edw'd Carter is lyable for above £850. besides Patt. & Chr, I wish it may be in yr power to secure this debt. Our Love to our Dear Sister I am at all times most affectionately Yours. William Lee

Mr Nicholas is desired to send Lys to you by Express. Our B.r Templar is still at Geneva on his way to Italy & begs his Love to all in Virga which you will be so good as to mention.

I have this moment rec'd yrs of Apl 29th. Valiant — you are a bitter Lac than I thot for, but don't laugh We loud at my raving at poor Fairy Leroy of yrs.

Where is yr promised intelligence abt the Frontr I augur no good from yr silence. We must bruise Nicholas heartily. Turner has drawn for £305. odd instead of £100. — besides £382. 11. 3 in goods already sent — As times are likely to be, he can't expect me to pay this Bill, you must make the matter easy with him, at least with Mr T. I know he is a valuable correspondent & in common times wd do any thing in my power to serve him; so that in Justice he ought not to be offended. WL.

Fred.g Aug.t 9th. 1774. (83)

D.r Sir,

If this Letter should (though I do not see any probable chance of it) reach your Land's in time, it is to ask, if you do not think it necessary that the Deputies from this Colony should be provided with authentick Lists of our Exports, & Imports generally, but more especially to Great Britain? and, in that case, to beg of you to obtain such from the Custom House Office's or. P.r to Mack & Rapp.a as I have desired the Speaker, if he should think it expedient, & might not have thought of it, to do from York & James River. —

I have got an acct. (though not a certified one) from Wm. Ivey the of our Number of Taxables in the year 1770, since Increas'd (archy Cary says) at least 10,000, as would have appear'd by the Lists returned to May, if the Session had gone on — I am with esteem —

D.r Sir Yr. Most Obed.t Serv.t

G.o Washington

P.S. If you should have occasion to Phil.a by Land, instead of Water, I should be glad of your Company — Mr. Henry & Colo. Pendleton are to be at my House on their way Tuesday the 30th. Inst.t

G. Washington Letter
3. August 1774

Geo: Washington

85.
73.84
11.16

19
25

Richd. Henry Lee Esq
at Chantilly - Va

Westmoreland

Aug. 1. 1774

Dear Sir,

A General Congress meets in Philadelphia the beginning of next Month. Three Colonies have appointed Deputies. Massachusetts Bay — New Hampshire — Rhode Island — Connecticut — New York — New Jersey — Pennsylvania — The Government on the Delaware — Maryland — Virginia — South Carolina — North Carolina, it is said, is to appoint on this Day. Georgia will also appoint, for we are assured.

The Insanity of Parliament, has generated the Insurrection in America. They are mad, to the Purse, but in their Frenzy, they have discovered invaluable Truths.

The Colonists now know, that

is designd against them. All the different people are surprizingly united in sentiment. The spirit of Patriotism will be general throughout the Nation. Should Great Britain. The next if Grievances are not redress'd, a general throughout the whole Kingdom. If the above mentioned, Events will inevitably take place, which is connected with their Constitution, you are, must avoid with the most possible Care all Parties.

The People in general thro' this Country look forward to the new with Resolution of those the brave Germans, many of whom have seen Service, are in every Sense, truly respectable. Is it possible, that the People of our Mother Country, is to be saved speedily by

conformably thereto & steadily pursue the true
interest of America as connected with ours? Engaging
in a War, that must inevitably involve such
Consequences under Heaven? Expose her to
natural Enemies? And if the conquest must
fall in the Consequence, may not her own sole
Destruction? The fate of Empires is the same
whether conquered or conquering, and
both alike in immediate Ruin.

Surely this will move every Friend
Country and Mankind to exert themselves by publishing
your Sentiments on the present unnatural
Prospect of Affairs. That you may undertake
the Disagreement, is the hearty Wish of

Dear Sir, your affectionate Friend

I have just heard, since the above was written,
that Georgia has appointed
Deputies to attend the Congress. August 20th 1774

Sir

[illegible] 1776

[illegible] ship to endeavour to put an alto on a footing to Esta-
-blish a lasting Peace w the brave Natives, who in my Opi
nion [illegible] will prove they are [illegible] by the
Blacks and Indians allowed to go Among them to their
different towns. This prevent my attending the General
Congress, where I would expect to see the Spirit of
the Amphyctions Shine, [illegible] as their glorious
Ancestors [illegible] in their Funerals Tribute, before
[illegible] Rebuilt w this Parricide Gothic [illegible]
The Fate of America depends upon y dar Meting
& the Eyes of the European World hang upon you to
Warding the Event
Despotism & the R. Catholick Religion Es-
-tablished in Canada.

Can we be said to enjoy liberty if the Villain
who Ravishes our Wives, debauches our Daughters
or Murders our Sons is to Evade punishment by
being tryd in Britain where no Evidence can pos-
sibly be had to convict him?

A Governour to Approve me guilty of a
Crime

96

& tell me that there can be no fair tryal in America —
That is there are not honest men to be found in My
Country to try me — He must send me home to Rot in
Newgate — I, shocking to human Nature! — Could I go
with a Pistol & shoot him — I would find him to Duels
He should never attempt to send home Another —
In the mean time, I must acquaint you, that the Sh
of America, that is the best of it I am acquainted with —
is unhappy in not being provided in Arms & Ammunit
At the Congress this ought to be prevented by
Gun Founderies and Powder Mills for encouraging Numb
of Gun lock smiths to come in — A number of L
to be imported with Caution — to prevent Surfeit,
as many Arms as could be got —

I imagine that we want 100.000 Stand of A
We have great difficulty in getting out the seamen
we want on this occasion —

Constant a Supply of Ammunition to be sent
to be sent in by every Ship

I wish the United Wisdom of America may be
equal to it; but I suspect, from their deliberate System of
Arbitrary

Arbitrary power at home, that Makes welcome to Enemies — It appears to me that they intend to irritate America into Rebellion, & then Govern us like a conquered People —

Try all fair means with the greatest address to avoid it, but be prepared for the worst upon as possible — This ought not to escape your Consideration at this time, & it is a thing that requires the utmost address —

Let us be provided w^t arms & ammunition & Individuals may suffer, but the Gates of Hell cannot prevail ag^t America —

Our greatest Enemies would be the despotic tools of Canada —

Before provision is made for these things the Hand of power will prevail

I wish the happy issue of your Councils and am w^t Respect

Sir, Your most Ob^t hu^l Ser^t

Berkeley Courthouse August 27th 1774 Adam Stephen

N.B. Direct this Journal I am on the Mount

Gen Putnam
Aug 29th 1774

(No 62)

No

I was favoured with all the Letters you mention & acknowledge myself enormously deficient in not returning my sincere thanks in my own name & my Brother Johns for your very obliging attention to the affair which I took the liberty to trouble you with

The truth is; being entirely ignorant of the business myself & having intire confidence in the friendship & Judgement of your Brother the Sheriff I have put myself solely under his direction in it, & I trusted that he had in the course of his correspondence with you told you his opinion as to the method of pursuing the Lawsuit - The this by no means excuses my silence I must still beg to refer you to him & have only to say that I will readily acquiesce in whatever him & you thinks proper to be done for my Brothers Interest. He tells

One that from the present disturbances there is a stop put to all Law matters, the Courts of Justice being shut up, in Virginia, I hope those differences between the Mother Country & her Colonys will soon be amicably settled & that you Sir are no particular sufferer upon the occasion.

I heard My Brother Anthony was in Virginia sometime ago but by the Date of your letter I fear it was amiss=taken — From time to time I have the most agreeable accounts of your friend Dolin, I dare say your Brother has acquainted you of the attention he paid to your recom=mendation, I hope Mr Steptoe is put in a way of doing well if he chuses to continue under my Brothers patronage. I am the more interested in him having been in some degree the means of pushing him to go, — I had often heard my Bro[r] him express his very particular friendship for you & regard for Col. Steptoe & I knew the young man would on that account make a sincere friend if he put himself in the way of his services

I shall endeavour to see your Brother as soon as the Patriotick load is taken off his Shoulders in the meantime I shall beg of him to say a few lines in answer to the Business & when any demands are made for the expences they shall be punctually answered by

Sir

Your Most Obedient & Obliged
Friend & Humble Ser.
Wilhelmina Maitland

London Sept.r 3.d 1774

For my share of the answer Will repeat what I have before wrote, that on my application to Mr. Bland's Trustees they refused to make any composition, & also said they had no effects to do it with. I am perfectly clear that nothing can be got here, (at least for 7 years) therefore I would it my own case I w.d prosecute the suit in Virginia, especially as the only obstacle from mr. Wythe's opinion, seems to be the conveyance made by Mr. Bland to his Trustees, which cannot operate, as I am told it is only binding provided all the creditors above £20. agree thereto; which it is evident they do not, by the suits of Mess.rs Stewart & Mr. Didsbury. Pursue the Law in Virg.a (in my opinion) & if in the meantime any settlement can be made here the debt will not be lost. William Lee.

(No 62)

Wilhelmina Maitland
to Mrs Lee
Sept. 3d 1774.

1774

To

Col. Richard Henry Lee
Chantilly, Plowmach

Wilhelmina Maitland's Letter

Mrs Maitland
3d September 1774

Francis Lightfoot Lee Esqr.

London 5 Sept. 1774.

My Dear Brother.

You have herewith a copy of my last of July 30, inclosed to Mr. Nicholas who was desired to send it to you ff. Express. Ab.t sending out a ship next year I shall attend to your advice of Apr.l 29th. provided you do not determine to stop the exportation of Tob.o. The times are so ticklish & the Political state of this Country & America so very alarming, that it will be impossible for the best intentioned person to stir one inch, without the apprehension of blame. I am sure I do not know how to act in some instances as you will see by my letters to Mr. Turner & Col. P.P. Thornton, which are left open for y.r single perusal, then to seal & forward. There is a state lottery this year & you shall have a ticket in good time as the drawing does not begin till ab.t the 14th of Nov.r Qy.r Nº shall be registered for fear it sh.d be a 20,000 £ to tempt me to roguery, — I do not know any thing material to answer in my.r last ff. Brown. I am much pleased with the satisfactory intelligence you give me ff. Ronan of July 3. but I must confess it w.d have been more agreeable, had you been able to send me some good letters of Exchange; You can hardly conceive how necessary they or a good quantity of Tob.o will be ab.t Christmass, especially if my.r non exportation scheme takes place; Mr. / Hudson / has not behaved well

nor has Triplet, therefore you cannot take too much care in seeing that they remit speedily. There was no mistake in sending the three pieces of India Handkerchiefs, but the mistake was in charging them to you; for the whole were intended for my own & friends use here. You will return one piece or more if you do not want them.

If you admit any ships from hence next spring, Brown will be one of my Captains & then you may settle about the horse &c. &c. to you may be secure, as Dr P. D. Lieth is in good business at Newcastle & the Squire owes Brown some money. I will observe what you say ab.t the goods of Robertson & do not doubt you will exert every nerve to save me from the dreadful ruin which seems to impend over all the mercantile part of this Country. For Politicks I refer you to our B.r H. H. Lee's letter on that subject; only requesting that both you & he will not adopt the fashionable mode at St. James's, of introducing Scotticisms in your writing —— for Great Britain, you say, after the Northern phrase, Britain & so in many other instances —— What chance can England or America have for a continuance of their Liberty or independance when not only the principles, but phraseology of that accursed Country is prevalent everywhere.

Tis evident that God has cursed that Country with Barrenness & Vice, therefore let us not court his vengeance by adopting their wickedness. According to my promise you have now, several Acct.s Cur.t proved viz. Trents Crumpe & Bates, £12.12.15.4 —— Carter & Trent £9.5.12.6 —— Alex.r & Peterfield Trents £44.6.11 Profiter & Trents £407. 2. 3 —— Trents & Calloway £51.14.8

with a proded copy of Peter Fild Trents agreement with me & copys of the Partners letters to Messrs. Dobson & Co in Liverpool, which P. Trent left with me to show that he was a partner & had a right to engage for the rest. — Also Wm Flood £132. 4.6 R. Bolling Junr £6. 8. 1. — & Hipkins & Tomlin £225. 11.6. on all which ballances you will observe Interest is to be charged from 30 July last till payment is made in London, with all charges which may attend the receiving them, particularly The Trents & their several partners, as by their agreemt; which shd be the rule in settling with Hipkins & Flood. You will take the speediest method by Law or otherwise to obtain payment for these Accounts, for you may be sure so large a sum as £3907.10.8 the amt of them, is too much for me to lay out of any time; but if there shd be any danger of the Trents & their partners being sufficient, it may be prudent to give them 12 Months time, on bond & approved security, to pay in London with Interest, all charges, with 10 pCt damages beside in case of failure — the penalty of the bond being double the principle as usual. You will be so good as to loose no time in settling this business with the Trents &c if they choose to ship 10 c on their account to you in payment, it will be most agreeable but then the notes or bills of loading must be given to you, to ship or remit as the case may be; that you may be a competent judge what remittances are made, in short, the whole payments shd pass thro' your hands, to avoid any deception on their part. — You have also inclosed

Richd.

Rich.d Buckners bill on Ja.s Russell dated 23.d Apr.l 1774.
for £25. protested for non payment, which you will
please to receive & remit as soon as you can. D.r Mortimer
remitted this bill home, his Acc.t has credit for that
Am.t, as I suppose M.r Buckner will take it up immed-
iately rather than let the damages run on. ——

Besides the Bal. of the several Acc.ts ag.st the Trents & Partners
each partnership wh. pay a proportionable part of £2. 3. the
expence here of proving the Accounts. Sept. 6.

By the Justitia I have just rec.d y.r favor of July 19. what
ever you do respect.g the Handk.f will be agreeable to me, &
will take care to give you full credit for what are returnd. I feel
with you the great advantages that will attend my coming to Virg.a
Tho' I am quite miserable while at Sea, yet I am now determend
to pay you a visit next summer, unless some great unforeseen
occurrence shd. prevent me; but it cannot be before June.

I am so much pleased with every part of y.r conduct in my affairs
that it affects me much to find you grow uneasy in the manage-
ment of them; but I will say no more 'till we meet, only, that
some great plans I have in my head, if they can be brot to bear,
you must cooperate in. —— The Bonds you sent me are just
as I would have them. I have several good Captains in my eye &
it will be hard indeed, if I do not get such as I think you will
approve —— Woodford, I fancy, cannot come, with prudence, to
London, 'till Perkins & Co.s affairs are settled. The Tob.o you have
sent me, has made me pretty easy at present, but what is to
answer for all the good shipped this year, if a.y r.o non exportation take
place & neither old or new debtors remit in the course of the winter
I must trust to providence, & you, as the means of my salvation.

I shall not be in a hurry to land Romans Tob.o as above 3000 hhds
have arrived with him, & I want to know the result of a.y r meeting
at Williamsburg the 1.st of Aug.st. You will see my sentim.ts ab.t paying for the
in R.d H.d Lee's Political Letter. Our best love to you & your Sister Farewell.
our Bro.r Pinckard was well the 19 Aug.st he is now at Florence.

William Lee

(No 16) Sept 5 1774

Amidst such a complication of re-
flexion, as America now labors under, one hardly knows
to begin a familiar letter to a friend. I could not however
bear to depart without letting you see that you are still
in my remembrance.

The confusion this continent has been thrown into by
proceedings against Boston, you will unquestionably be
informed before this can get to hand. What measures will be
adopted in America cannot be known with certainty, till
they are resolved upon at the General Congress to be held at
Philadelphia the 5th Inst. The necessary & almost constant
attendance, which my office requires, prevented me from
going as one of the Deputies from Virginia; this indeed was
the less necessary, as there were so many able Gentlemen,
totally disengaged of such embarrassments.

In the name of goodness & sound policy to what length this
will the measures adopted on y.e side the waters be driven.
Pity it is that men's eyes could not be opened to see their
important & most essential interests. Whether the objects
commercial or that of Revenue, the means of attaining
either seem to be egregiously mistaken. I have sent M.
Brothers a Pamphlet, written in answer to a late very ex-
traordinary exhibition of one of our Countrymen, which I have

desire

ate to you — nor venture to con-
ther of the more thinking & prudent part
nabitants; the views & design of the original Com.
I you will easily collect from the answers to your Queries
make proper allowances for the Errors of the press, & we
we there are too many (R.C.V. — Sep: 1774.)

Wishing you the perfect enjoyment of every felicity
this life can afford, I am with unalterable Esteem

D. Sir (No 10)

Your most Obed. Servant

(Signd) Ro. C. Nicholas

(863)

My Dr Sir

London Sept. 10, 1774.

No 254
257

I have perused y^r letter to our B^r a. as he is about on a tour to Italy. I find from a letter of our Wm F. L. L. an idea has been intertained in Virginia of paying for the E. I. C^o tea destroyed at Boston; I cannot think such a measure will be adopted at the Congress — In my Judgment it is totally wrong, & cannot be supported on any principle of Policy or Justice; any reasons for this opinion are too numerous to be set down here, especially as they can be of little use, since the measure must be fully canvassed before this gets to hand; however as it appears to me that whatever may be determined at the Congress or at y^r meeting at Wms^o burg the 1st of Augt last, that the difference between this Country & america cannot be settled 'till a new parliam^t meets, I will give some hints of what in my opinion ought to be y^r conduct.

A settled plan is layed to subvert the Liberties & constitution of this Country as well as that of America — You are personally obnoxious to the Sh — & his Junto, as having shown more spirit in support of y^r Rights than the people at this Country who are immersed in Riches, Luxury & dissipation; therefore every nerve will be exerted, to subdue y^r spirit & make you first bow y^r necks to the Yoake, which will prove a useful example to the people at home. The plan is deeply layed

by the K—— Ld Bute & Mansfield & Wedderburne; for wch purpose they employ the most useful tools in the Kingdom; Ld North a Tyrant from Principle, cuning, Treacherous & Persevering; a perfect adept in Sr R. Walpoles plan of corruption; & his Brother in law Ld Dartmouth who will whine, preach & cry, while he is preparing privately a dagger to stab you to the Heart. Under this direction the several acts ag^t Boston, the Massachusetts Bay & the Quebec Act have passed the last session; to inforce them, Soldiers & Ships of War have already been sent to Boston & many more will follow on the least occasion. Genl Carlton the ablest Officer in the British service is sent out to his Government of Quebec to embody 30,000 Roman Catholics there—— The Ministers have offer'd to Genl Amherst the command in chief of America & to Genl S^r Wm Draper the government of New York—— Genl Amherst has not yet agreed to accept, but has it now in consideration; if he does, every general of Note in the K—'s service, Amherst, Gage,—— Carlton & Draper are to be employed ag^t you. From these facts it is evident that open War is intended ag^t you, provided the people here sit still, & the question is, how you are to oppose it; in my opinion every method is lawful & warrantable, as the first blow is struck by the ministry & every tye to allegiance is broken by the Quebec Act, which is absolutely a dissolution of this Government; The Compact between the K— & the people is totally done away. The people of New England have been prudently providing for the worst event by lately having two or three vessels privately loaded with arms & ammunition from Holland & [redacted] twice as many small arms & double the quantity of powder, that was usual, shipt from hence; I wish every colony had been as provident, but I do not find that they have; however let us consider what peaceable steps ought to be first pursued, that your last efforts may be warrantable in the eyes of God and Man.——

The first object ought be to form a federal union with all the Colonies, as the states general of Holland or the Amphyctions of Greece. If it is practicable get Quebec into the Union — delegates or representatives of the Colonies should certainly meet at Congress annually at least in every year — In every Colony in attendance should be used to engage the yeomanry or people at large in the same spirit of opposition with the principal men & by degrees lead them on to the last point if it should be necessary — In this progress you will no doubt find many obstructions from the slavish principles of some, & the prospect of rewards & preferments, which are liberally held out from hence, to some principal people in all the Colonies & particularly in New York; but with perseverance I think those obstacles may be easily surmounted — By no means treat any thing to the Merchts., for in general, gain is their God, but force them to cooperate with the wishes of the people. For this purpose you will have abundant time, as I am convinced that buying will not be speedily ended, unless a thorough change of Ministers & favorites shd. take place here; as I take it for granted the Americans will be firm & persevere to the utmost extremity — It is the part of the leaders to engage the body of the people step by step, till they have advanced too far to retract — To accomplish these points in America it will require infinite perseverance, address & assiduity; The leaders in Boston have the most foresight, & those of Philadelphia, much sagacity, but not so determined as the former; with these you should cooperate in every measure, as they really have the best & earliest intelligence of every thing that passes here & are better prepared for their resistance — This arises from their situation & nature of their trade. Next you are to endeavor to raise up a formidable opposition here, which is to be accomplished by only two

methods that I know of, a total suspension of all commerce whatever with their Country, by stopping all exports & imports to & from G. B. one without the other will be of no service, but rather injurious, as it can militate only ag^t yourselves; qby making a prodigious cry ag^t the Quebec establishment. I take to myself no small share of merit from sounding the first alarm & raising up the opposition to it in the H. of Commons & the City & thereby a continual fire on the papers. The principles of this Act are abominable beyond expression, but what hurts me most, is the ministerial plan openly avowed — to make use of the Canadians to enslave all America — which may possibly be accomplished in a few years, if the Act is not repealed & we shall be hemmed in between two fires; the Canadians may? march from Hudsons bay to the Miss. & the Indians & their men of war on y^r coast.

The people here however will not make any opposition to the Acts on this ground — they are nevertheless very greatly alarmed at the establishment of Popery by Law & raising a formidable Roman Catholic Army qif these apprehensions are aided & increased by representations from the Colonies. I shall not be surprised if the Quebec act proves as fatal to Ld North, as the Excise scheme was to Sr R. Walpole — 'Tis not uncommon to hear pretty openly expressed, that a revolution is become necessary & many cast their eyes on the Hereditary Prince of Brunswick; tho it is too evident to doubt that the design of Ld Bute & Mansfield is to restore the abdicated family of Stuart. Had Ld Rockingham one spark of the spirit of a Pym or Hamden, great changes w^d ensue; but both he & Sr G. Saville the two great leaders of the old whig interest, have too much of the milk of human kindness in them, to entertain one bold or daring Idea. The body of the people is still incorrupt, but leaders are wanting, or else things w^d not have gone on as they have done. Ld Chatham seems to me, the most decided friend America has among the Great Men, but he is very infirm & has little influence since his acceptance of a Peerage tho united now with his Br. in Law Ld Temple whom he has nearly made a full convert of, respecting American rights — I have had the honor of many conferences with his Lordship on the subject, like Sr G. Grenville, he will not entirely give up the Parliamentary right of taxation, but he acknowledges, the putting the right in execution was a most unhappy attempt, & that the present taxes ought not only be repealed, but that the like attempts ought never be made again; but when money is wanted from America it ought be obtained as formerly by requisition — Ld Chatham, like himself

spirited out, & says, The Parliam^t. has no right under Heaven to tax America. Thus Noblemen however most ardently hope that on y^r. part a firm & invincible opposition will be made, & they are free to declare that from the complexion of the times, they have no prospect of saveing the Liberties of their Country but from the exertions of America & it might prove of some use, were you to let me have a proper political letter for the inspection of these Noble Lords, with both of whom I have the honor of a correspondence now they are out of Town. L^d. Chatham, head in the H. of Lords is himself, Temple, Camden & Shelburne, in the House of Comons their band is small in Number, but able in Capacity Barré, (Dunning, Capt. Phipps, & one or two young Grenvillers, with some others; could a sincere union be brought about between the Backing & Chathams, the present set of infamous Ministers, must soon decamp: but I fear such a measure cannot be accomplish'd yet I am convinced unless it is, a New Parliam^t. will not make any alteration in the ministry — L^d. Shelburne I always thought wished a man in Politicks as any in this Nation. L^d. Mansfield not excepted & now I am perfectly convinced of it, as we know for a certainty that we owe the Boston port Bill meeting with no opposition in the H. of L. to his concurrence with L^d. North in the manner, for which he was to be paid with the Lieutenancy of Ireland & Barré was to be his Secretary — I am rejoiced that North has cheated him, for after the dirty work was done, they refused to give him the Bribe. He is a compleat Jesuit & thereby has over deceived our Mr. Templar, whom I cannot convince that he is a villian, tho' he cheated us in a barefaced manner ab^t. our first petition to the house of Lords ag^t. the Boston Port Bill — He undertook to deliver & support it, & promised that we should have a division on the Bill in the H. of L. if no other L^d. but himself was against it — By their means he prevented us from getting into better hands & served his friend North that purpose most effectually —

He delivered our petition, but said not one word in its support, nor did he make any division agst the Bill. I suspect this Jesuit is about some dirty work — from the complexion of things lately in Europe & particularly in France since the New things accession, there is reason to apprehend a general war soon, therefore Shelburne, & Mansfield tho' 75 years old & very infirm, are gone to Paris, as it is supposed, to buy a continuance of peace at any price with France, that all the power of this country may be employed to subdue & enslave America — From Great Rogues let us come to small ones. The American Merch.ts are very quiet & consequently the manufacturers, for the Merch.ts particularly in the Tob.o trade, will not entertain an idea that it is possible for you to determine on a non exportation of Tob.o, in that they have been encouraged by letters from Pendleton & Mr Nicholas to Mr Norton & Col. Carrington hearing that a motion of Lord Dunmore, T. Nelson Junr & ~~Mr~~ were against it, at the meeting of the Assembly at Williamsburg — I confess I have some doubts of the measure being adopted, from the above circumstances, & seeing the resolves of Prince George, Col.o Ths. Bland's County, which for unmeaning insignificancy, excell any thing that has ever appeared in print; I therefore now am very impatient to know the resolutions of the Genl. meeting the 1st of Augst at Wmsburg. The Merch.ts are almost universally our Enemies, therefore instead of doing you any good their whole influence will be against you, unless you force them thro' interest to take an active part in your favor which can only be done by stopping both exports & imports to & fr. B. — A non importation will affect all the Merch.ts from Philadelphia to the N.ward & a non exportation all to the Sth. of Philadelphia therefore the two schemes must unite the whole body of N. American Merch.ts in yr. favor, among whom I do not know that you have one friend at present but Mr Torrey of this city, who is rendered incapable of business by an unlucky stroke of the Palsy 9 or 10 Months ago; Mr Bromfield a native of Boston in the New England Trade; Mr.

Johnson, a native of Maryland in that trade monopoly. Form
this trial state, does it not occur to you as a measure absolutely
among other things, requisite to be adopted in America, to agree
in supporting those Merch.ts effectually only, who have
openly avowedly espoused our cause with infinite danger to
themselves, while so many have been busy in traducing &
forwarding the late iniquitous measures with all their force.
If something like this is not done I will venture to foretell that
you will never hereafter find one Merch.t that will dare to open
his lips in your behalf, for indeed by threats & a thousand other
darkdevices, they have already frightened all those I have mention'd
into silence except myself — You will easily conceive, under these
circumstances, what little mercy I shall find here, if the exports
are stopt & my Debtors will not remit, tho' it be known here that
I have advised the measure. But don't not strike you a folly
of the first magnitude, to put power & importance in the hands of y.r
enemies, thereby enabling them to do you the most essential injury?
I have just rec.d a letter from D.r Franklin which concludes thus,
"The magnanimity of the Virginians will amaze this ministry,
"which has no idea that any such thing exists any where as publick
"virtue". — You have not done the Americans Justice who petition'd agst
the Boston Port & other bills, by not publishing their names, as well as those
few who would not sign; that their names may be handed down with
contempt to the latest generations; you had the lists & Gibson & copies
sined —— 'Tis necessary not only to encourage the virtuous in these days
of profligacy, that they may go on in the right way; but to hold up the
wicked to contempt, that they may reap the fruits of their villiany &
thereby be prevented from a repetition of it. I have been endeavoring to
get the American Merch.ts to begin a subscription, for relief of the poor
sufferers in Boston, but cannot get any one to begin it, tho' they know I
have orders from two private gentlemen to subscribe £200. for them when-
ever the subscription is began — Does not this show their disposition
plainly?

8) (A 63) (Pa 251) Wm Lee
Sept 10th 1774

Indeed Chas Thompson the most considerable & eldest Boston Merch.t whom applyed to, declared he wd subscribe largely to induce the Bostonians to submit & comply with the requisitions of the Boston Port Bill but he wd not give one shilling to support them in their present state of rebellion, in words to the same effect. I will not doubt their endeavr to bring this measure to bear. Every body here waits with impatience to know the result of the congress, till then all things will be at a stand — We know that orders have long since been sent to Genl Gage & the other Governors, to prevent the congress if possible, but we do not learn the mode that has been pointed out, to accomplish this end. I am told, but cannot vouch it, that the Ministry have in contemplation a bill, to defeat any attempts of non exportation & non importation, if they can venture to bring it forward — I wish they may, as it will be the most effectual plan that can be devised to rouse the people here. Tis no less than to make a monopoly of the whole American trade, to confine exports & imports totally to G. Britain & this commerce only to be in the hands of such Merch.ts as are licensed by Government. This plan you may think too daring & foolish for even the present wicked ministry to think of but in my opinion tis the strongest reason imaginable for gaining credit to the report.

I have been thus prolix, in order to give you as full an Idea as I can of the state of things here, as I do not know of any opp.y I shall have of writing again before Mess.rs shall refer you for further information to the papers &c that go with this.

W.m Lee
Rec.d 1774
Boston

Resolved That as we find the reason declared in the preamble to the Acts of Parliament for raising a Revenue in America to be for "supporting the Civil Government Administration of Justice and for protecting defending and securing" the Colonies: It is the opinion of this Congress recommend to the several Colonies where it is not already done, to provide as soon as may be such and competent support for the purposes of Government and Administration of Justice And since it is quite unreasonable that the Mother Country should be at the expence of maintaining Standing Armies in North America for the defence of them and that Administration may be convinced of the unnecessary and improper and as North America is able, willing, and determined to Protect Defend and Secure it's self The Congress do most earnestly recommend it to the several Colonies that a Militia be forthwith appointed and well disciplined And that they be well provided with Ammunition and proper Arms.

111

Motion made
in Congress &c.
1774 by R. H. L.
to appoint a
Clerk of Congress
& to test the
Colonies in a
State
a majority
Shall be
Sufficient
Ben. L.

4 1260
480
1760

3333
1760
1573

Bill
Rolls
&c
1774 October

1918 BEQUEST OF E. J. WENDELL

By Virtue of an Instruction from Hugh Hamersley
Esqr one of the Guardians of the Right Honourable
Henry Harford Esqr Proprietor of Maryland dated at Spring
Gardens London the 30th Day of July 1771. I am directed
to Signify to you that it is the pleasure of Mr Harfords
Guardians that all further Proceedings upon the Order
of the 22d of March last be suspended until they
signify the Contrary to which you are to pay due Obedience

Rich Lee

To the Honble Benedict Calvert
& George Stewart Esqrs
Judges of the Land Office
Annapolis the 6th of October 1774.

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The following undated document has been dated 6 October 1774 from the *Journals of the Continental Congress 1774*

The Congress are of opinion that it is inconsistent with the
honor and safety of a free people to live within the Controut and
expose to the injuries of a Military force not under government
of the Civil Power, and as General Gage has thought proper to
take possession of the Town of Boston with an armed force, and
is converting that once free City into a Military Garison
The Congress advise from every motive of honor safety and
wisdom, that ~~the Inhabitants~~ the Free Citizens
of Boston no longer expose themselves to the dangerous
consequences of these Military Manouvres, but quit their
Town and find a safe asylum among their hospitable
Countrymen, who we doubt not, will on this ~~loving~~ occasion,
display that virtuous humanity ~~that~~ which ~~will~~ may be so honorably
exercised towards them & have ~~generally~~ established Settled Citizens
And again we earnestly recommend it to all British Americans that
they do from time to time plentifully supply from their distressed and
deserving Countrymen ~~until~~

Motion for Quitting
Town of Boston

Dear Sir,

Yesterday the Congress broke up. You will immediately know their proceedings from Publication.

Colonists have good Reason for such Grounds, that Great Britain must relax, or inevitably involve herself in a Civil War, likely in all human Probability to overwhelm her with all Weight of Calamities, in Comparison of which "plus mauvais Evils de Cas" the Confusions between the Houses of York & Lancaster, or the Distractions of the last Century were gentle Misfortunes.

A determined & unanimous Resolution animates this Continent, firmly & faithfully to support the Common Cause, to

the ultimate Calamity, in this great Struggle for
the Blessing of Liberty, that alone can render
Life worth the having.

I grieve for the Fate of a brave
& generous Nation plunged by a few profligate
Men, into such Scenes of un merited & inglorious Misery.
Let her rouse her natural, noble Spirit — be true to
herself & of course be true to us. Let her not so far
adopt the base, yet
that she may banish her Dignity consider'd to maintain
the Sophistry of those, whom her Justice commands her to punish
Give up the Rulers, Manufacturers & Soldiers,
Bernards & Hutchinsons & whose Falsehoods and
Misrepresentations, have enflamed the People —
Call not their Cause, the Cause of Great Britain — Throw
all Ideas & Invocations of Dissatisfaction on their guilty Sou

A new Ministry of such character, that England
& America both can trust, may do much. Should Lord Chatham
especially if a considerable change be made at the first Reign
Why then should Sr Hallowing meet with hostile Eyes,
because Villainy & Ideots have ruled
like Villainy & Ideots?

I wish for peace ardently; but must say, delightful as it is, it will come more gratefully
by being unexpected. The first Act of violence on the
part of Administration in America, or the Attempt
to reinforce General Gage in their Winter or
next Year, will put the whole Continent in
arms from Nova Scotia to Georgia.

May God of his infinite Mercy grant
a happy Event to these afflicting Agitations —

Philadelphia October 21st 1774

His suspect there, that a Design is regularly prosecuted by
the Ministry, to make his Majesty dethrone himself,
by the Calamities & Convulsions his Reign is likely to bring on
his whole People. Please to inform Me, what is thought on this
Point in England.

Francis Lightfoot Lee Esq.

My Dear Brother. London 3 Dec. 1774

Our B. Templar has engaged to write you on Politics so I have only to inform you the magazines & some papers, with Hazards, ill advice. This is an unlucky year for the poor Americans, my own fate is the same as yours. Capt. Brown has got a ship in which he will certainly sail from hence before Xmas. She is ab. 400 or 500 hhds & when he arrives, you & your B. R. H. L. will direct whither she is to lye in Pot. or Rapp.k — By her I shall write fully to all my correspondents & I hope such provision will be made as to give her very quick dispatch.

From the very alarming prospects, it is not in my power at present to fix any decisive schemes, many are in my head but not yet brot to maturity, it is possible by some bold strokes to save ourselves, but you know I am not inclined to be very hazardous, however I beg you will use your utmost endeavors to buy up for me all the Stem'd Tob.o you can meet with immediately as far as 300 hhds the price I leave to you, in which you will be regulated by the cash prices for leaf Tob.o — if my Mercantile correspondents cannot supply you with the cash, you may draw on me for what you purchase. In this business it will be necessary to act with expedition & as much secrecy as the case will admit. It is the usual mode now.

to purchase Tobo to pay in bills, at the succeeding Genl Court such plan will suit me & I beg the earliest intelligence of yr proceedings herein. This day is to be the debate in the H. of Comons on the address in answer to the Kg's Speech, I am in a hurry to go there, in order to be able to form some judgemt of what will be the fate of America When I shall conclude on my plans, which you shall know by Brown. God Bless you all, Farewell.

William Lee

My dear Brother

The Proceedings of the Congress are yet unknown to us, but our best accounts from you signify that the non-export will not take place, till the present Crop is shipp'd. It is unfortunate that you did not adopt that measure immediately upon the receipt of the late Acts, because the operation of it would have been felt by this time, & would in all probability have enforc'd the repeal of them this Sessions. But now by that dangerous delay the present Parliament will be involved like the old one, & the plea of wounded dignity will still impede a retraction. The Merchants too being in possession of one year's Crop will be enabled to pay the Tradesmen & employ them elsewhere under a suspension of Trade, for at least a year, so as to prevent any clamour, & give the Ministry that time to try what fraud & force can do to divest you of your Liberties. Thus by

an ill-judged tenderness towards men who have neither the feelings of humanity or justice for us, but on the contrary would joyfully minister to our oppression, we have strengthened the hands of our enemies, and subjected ourselves to additional losses & hardships.

However instead of idly lamenting over what is irretrievable; let us consider what should be our conduct in the present situation. If the People flatter themselves, that the threat will be vetoed, & that they will not be put to the trial; under that dangerous deception they will again plant Tobacco & be equally unprepared to stand the contest. The utmost attention should therefore be employed to convince them, that it is certain, that nothing but a hearty struggle will save their civil & religious liberties. In order to be prepared, they should double their quantity of Corn & Grain, not that they can export it, but that they may enjoy the happy opportunity to mitigate their hardships & keep the Country in good humour, — they should plant great quantities of Cotton & thus immediately form the use of Mutton & Lamb, which will furnish them against next

Winter with Wool & Cotton enough to cloath the whole Colony. With Provisions cheap & plenty & warm clothing; you may easily bid defiance to this Country. Every thing that will yield Spirit, as Persimmons, Grapes &c should be gathered & distilled; & Rye & Barley, sowed & cultivated for that purpose. My reason for this is that it will be the plan to cut off all communication between the Colonies from whence the usual supply of this article being prevented, the common Planters to whom they are absolutely necessary, may be induced to maintain if not resist those measures of opposition which our foolish friends will take cause to believe them are the cause of their distress. As a great deal depends upon the hearty concurrence of the Body of the People, provision should be made against every thing that may obstruct it.

The ministerial Language now is not for force; however I would not trust them but prepare against that too by arming & disciplining the Militia. The plan at present is to keep two Acts one for taking the Fisheries from New England & encouraging the Canadians, the other to make all Associations for

nothing Trade, be reasonable. Additional Supplies will be granted & it will be left to the King & his Ministry to add military Force, which I verily believe they will do.

You have the cloth of their plan before you, & I hope you will not remit of the utmost activity to defeat it. The not planting any Tobacco will be a decisive measure to convince them here that you are in earnest. Such conviction will be of great use. You may depend upon it, that the Merchants here will never move in your behalf, till your alarm their fears so much, or touch their interests so strongly as to make the cause their own.

My anxiety about the Public absorbs every idea of private concern. Col. Phil. remits me nothing, & the additional expences of my being called to the Bar in April next, will distress me extremely.

My love to Mrs Lee & every Body else. Adieu

London
Dec. 18th 1774

J. A.

Dear Brother, Chantilly in Virg.a 15th Dec.r 1774

As this letter is intended to be short and [illegible] on business, as I go by way of Glasgow, I shall only thank you for the political intelligence you have favored me with during the course of last summer, most of which letters I have received since my return from the Congress. Every thing is preparing here firmly to adhere to the non importation and non exportation plans, which will be faithfully observed. Our Assembly meets on February next, when it is expected much dislike will be taken at the Indian manœuvres of Lord Dunmore on our frontiers the summer. We hear that more than £100,000 will not defray the expence. The money is to come from heaven only knows, as we have very little of, and such a sum of money immediately levied, will ruin the [illegible]. I have been lately up the Country, where I heard on the subject of remittance. He declares he

(1)

will pay you all before our Export to stop, and gave me the inclosed bill for £300. drawn by Willing & Morris Messrs. Days & Strachan & Co— The ~~wind~~ first he opened me had already been remitted you and he desired this ~~[illegible]~~ might go by first opportunity from Potomac. Lord & myself will exert ourselves to forward the business of remittance. Mr. Buchner told me yesterday that he intended to put all his business into your hands, that he would put in your first ship at least eight thousand lb. and give you orders on Russell & Mollison for the ballances they owe him, which he thinks must be something, as they have had dealings between them for £4 or £5. that he is indebted. In return for this he desires you will pay his bill for £2 which you remitted to London protested by Russell when he draws for it and its damages which London will receive & inclose to you. As this is only be crediting, not advancing. I thank you had better oblige him because he may be able to ship 12 or 15 hhds yearly. We hope to see a ship from you shortly and your self in the Spring with another &c

greatly contribute to more effectual remittances.

Give our love to the Doctor and our Sister

I am at present unwell with a slight attack of the bilious intermittent.

Farewell

Richard Henry Lee

Recd 13 Sept. 1775
Ans 15 Sept. 1775 Col. PB to Sr

My dear Brother London Decemb. 22 1774

The proceedings of the Congress meet with universal approbation here, & have operated like an electrical shock upon the Ministry & their Dependants. They begin to reprobate their own measures, each endeavouring to exonerate himself from the charge of having advised them. The King has consented to receive the petition of the Congress, & L. Dartmouth told us it was found to be very decent & respectful. I expect we shall receive his Majesty's answer in time to send with this. ——— The Merchants have advertised for a meeting, & every thing seems to promise a speedy accommodation. The terms of that must depend upon you. Your demands are made with great moderation, & should not, may I think even not be receded from a single Iota. Depend upon it the same firmness & unanimity which have compell'd a conciliatory disposition will enforce a full redress. Be therefore firm and fear not.

6/29/4

The excessive joy & anxiety for the ultimate issue of these unhappy disturbances, makes me sometimes apprehensive that these glorious appearances will make you remiss in your preparations for a different conduct. That you will forget, that he who sheaths the sword before the peace is made, does, expose himself to a shameful defeat. But relying upon your wisdom I trust you will treat them as appearances only, which firmness vigilance & unanimity on your part can alone realize

108 Dec. 24th 1774 — Lord Dartmouth, this day informed us, "that
His Majesty had received your Petition very graciously, &
for its importance would lay it before his two Houses
of Parliament as soon as they met." They are adjourned for the
Holidays.

I communicate to you the following Copy of a
letter from Lord Chatham, because I think it must
give you infinite satisfaction. At the same time
I must entreat you not to let it get into the Papers,
because it will be a breach of honor in me.

"I have not words to express my satisfaction,
that the Congress has conducted their most arduous &
delicate business, with such manly wisdom & calm
Resolution, as does the highest honor to their de-
liberations. Very few are the things contained in their
Resolves, that I could wish had been otherwise. Upon
the whole, I think it must be evident to every unpre-
judiced man in England, who looks for the rights of Man-
kind, that America, under all her oppressions & provo-
cations, holds forth to us, the most fair & just opening
for restoring harmony & affectionate intercourse as be-
fore. I trust that the friends of Man are more than
beginning to open on this great subject so little
understood, & that it will be found impossible for free
men in England, to wish to see three millions of
englishmen slaves in America"

Such praise from the character of the age, ought
to inspire you with confidence, if any thing can add to
the conscious dignity of patriotism, & make you resolve
to maintain your Demands with immoveable firmness.

Farewell

A. L.

Dec. 26th 1774. I was yesterday in the County with Lord
Chatham, to shew him the Petition of the Congress. He

approves of it exceedingly. His words were, The whole of your Countrymen's conduct has manifested such wisdom, moderation & manliness of character, as would have done honor to Greece or Rome in their best days. Laudatis Virtus, ought to make us cautious that we support the character by a manly perseverance in those measures which have procured it.

His opinion is that a solemn settlement of the question by a renunciation of the Right of taxation &c on the one part & an acknowledgement of the supreme on the other, i.e. is to unite the head of opposition upon one uniform large ground, which with the popularity of our cause at present, will I think enforce a compleat abolition of those pernicious measures.

I have this moment learnt that the Resolution of the Court is to repeal all the Acts except the Declarat & Admiralty Act - that L. North & Dartmouth are to give place to the Lords Gower & Hillsborough, who are to commence their Administration with these conciliatory measures. The utter inconsistency of this plan is no objection to the probability of it, for these men have been long disciplined to turn, & turn, & turn again. But we may learn from it, that there is little cordiality in the [illegible] & that we are to hold a jealous eye over the measures of men whose minds are actuated against us by the bitterest rancour & revenge. You will consider this as intelligence of a doubtful nature, & let no hasty gleam of hope go forth, which may tend to make men remit of their exertions or relax in the terms they demand.

Farewell

Arthur Lee to R. H. Lee dec. 2 & 24 giving d. Chatham's & his own opinion of the first Congress & the necessary subsequent proceedings —

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1791

A. Lee Esq
&c. &c. &c.
Philadelphia

Sir

I have the honor to inclose you a Copy of the proceedings of the Executive of Virginia on the Requisition of the Governor of South Carolina for the apprehension of Patrick Cain charged with Murder committed in that State, and to request that you will lay the same before the President of the United States.

I am Sir
Your most obedient
humble Servant
Richd Henry Lee

Extract of a Letter from the
Earl of Dunmore to the Earl
of Dartmouth dated Williams-
burg Decem.r 22d. 1774

My neglect any Absence on the occasion
of the Indian Disturbances, will I hope,
account; and excuse me for my not
having acknowledged your Lordships
several Letters in due time and order,
and for my not having regularly commu-
nicated Accounts of the public affairs
of the Colony to which some of them refer,
and I wish I were now so fortunate
as to have it in my Power to make
a Representation of them appearing with
a more favourable Aspect, than when I
last wrote upon these important Concerns

The Associations first in part
entered into recommended by the People
of this Colony, and adopted by what is
called

called the Continental Congress, are now
enforcing throughout this Country —
with the greatest Rigour, A Committee
has been chosen in every County
whose Business it is to carry the
Association of the Congress into Execution
which Committee assumes an Authority
to inspect the Books Invoices and
all the Secrets of the Trade and
Correspondence of Merchants, to watch
the Conduct of every Inhabitant with
our distinction and to send for all
such as come under their Suspicion
into their presence to interrogate
them respecting all Matters which
at their pleasure they think fit objects
of their Enquiry and to stigmatize
as they term it, such as they find
transgressing what they are now hardy

enough

enough, to call the Laws of the Congress which Stigmatizing is no other than inviting the Vengeance of an Outrageous and lawless Mob to be executed upon the unhappy Victims - Every County besides is now arming a Company of Men - whom they call an independant Company for the avowed purpose of protecting their Committees and to be employed against Government if occasion require The Committee of one County has proceeded so far as to swear the Men of their independant Company to execute all Orders which shall be given them - from the Committee of their County

As to the power of Govern.t which your Lordship in your Letter No. 11 directs should be exerted to - counteract the dangerous Measures pursuing

morning here - I can assure your Lordship that it is entirely disregarded, if not wholly overturned - There is not a Justice of Peace in Virginia that acts, except as a Committee man; The abolishing the Courts of Justice was the first step taken, in which the Men of Fortune and Preeminence joined equally with the lowest and meanest. The General Court of Judicature of the Colony is in much the same predicament, for though there are at least a Majority of His Majestys Council who with myself are the Judges of that Court, that would steadily perform their Duty, yet the Lawyers have absolutely refused to attend, nor indeed would the People allow them to attend, or Evidences to

appear

appear; the reason commonly assigned for this proceeding is the want of a Fee Bill, which expired at the last Session of the Assembly; and it is a popular Argument here, that no power but the Legislature can establish Fees; and the Fee Bills not having been renewed is attributed to the Dissolution; But the true cause of so many persons joining in so opprobious a Measure, was to engage their English Creditors, who are so numerous, to join in the Clamours of this Country, and not a few, to avoid paying the Debts in which many of the principal People here are much involved.

With regard to the encouraging of those as your Lordship likewise exhorts

me

me, who appeared in principle &
averse to these proceedings, I hope
Your Lordship will done the
Justice to believe I have left no
means in my power unessayed to
draw all the assistance possible from
them to His Majesty's Government,
but I presume Your Lordship will
not think it very extraordinary that
any persuasions should have been
unavailing against the Terrors which
on the other hand are held out by the
Committees, independant Companies &c,
so universally supported who have
set themselves up superior to all other
Authority under the Auspices of
their Congress; the Laws of which they
talk of in a stile of Respect & treat with
Marks of Reverence, which they never

bestowed

bestowed on their legal Government, or the Laws proceeding from it; I can assure your Lordship that I have discovered no instance where the Interposition of Government in the feeble State to which it is reduced, could serve any other purpose than to suffer the disgrace of a disappointment and thereby afford Matter of great Exultation to its Enemies and increase their Influence over the Minds of the People.

But my Lord every step which has been taken by these infatuated People must inevitably defeat its own purpose; Their Non Importation Non Exportation &c cannot fail in a short time to produce a scarcity which will ruin thousands of Families; the People indeed of Fortune supply themselves and their Negroes for two or three years but

but the middling and poorer sort who live from hand to mouth have not the means of doing so, and the produce of their Lands will not purchase those Necessaries without which themselves and Negroes starve if the Merchants who may have Goods to dispose of, because the Merchant is prevented from turning such produce to any Account; as to Manufacturing for themselves the People of Virginia are very far from being naturally industrious, and it is not by taking away the principal if not the only Encouragement to Industry, that it can be excited, nor is it in Times of Anarchy and Confusion that the foundation of such Improvement can be laid. The lower Class of People

too wile discover that they have been duped by the richer sort, who for their part elude the whole Effects of the Association by which their poor Neighbours Perish. What there is to deter those from taking the shortest Mode of supplying themselves, and unrestrained as they are by Laws from taking whatever they want from wherever they can find it.

The Arbitrary proceedings of these Committees likewise cannot fail of producing Quarrels and Dissentions which will raise Partisans of Government, and I am firmly persuaded that the Colony even by their own Acts and Deeds must be brought to see the Necessity of depending on its Mother Country, and of embracing its Authority.

I

The within is a true copy of the Earl of Dunmore's Letter to the Earl of Dartmouth which is now on the Table of the House of Commons

London Feby 25. 1775

Frede Bull

Member
for the City of London

No 68.

Extract of a Letter from
the Earl of Dunmore
to the Earl of Dartmouth
Dated Williamsburg
24th December 1774.

Rec.d 11th Febry.

Ex.

(No 64)

Col. Richard Henry Lee

My Dear Brother. London 24th. Decr. 1774.

I have before me yr. favor of June 28th. If Howard: yr goods cannot be ship't agreeable to yr. assignation, however Capt. Barnes carries the trinkets for my niece, which yr Mrs. Jas. Steptoe desired; they are in a box of Geo. Lee Turber. with his books in paper parcels directed for you & sealed. Should you be in want of medicines, Capt. B. has a parcel for the use of the servants he carries out, which I hope they will have no occasion for & therefore will probably come very seasonably for you. — They are chiefly the Capital medicines, which must be useful, particularly the Barthw. is uncommonly scarce here & dear, so high as 14/. ℔ for the whole Serroon. You will in yr Acct. Curt. find credit for more drawback on yr goods shipd you than I ever rec'd. — You are to observe that the goods on which the principal drawback is allowed viz. Lemons, Sugar & spirits, are always charged to you in the Invoice at the short price, the drawback being taken off; & for the triffle of spices &c, the whole drawback chs. deducted, not perhaps exceeding 15 or 20/. — yr share may be £. or 6d. — is it worth while to keep a clerk dancing for at least 3 Weeks at the Custom House for that sum. You must by this time be fully satisfied abt the £ Cy. bill; & as to the dollars, you will no doubt agree to be credited for £100 Ster. for this whole sum paid to our B. h. L. Lee after read'g mine of the 7th. of June.

The Tradesman who took y^r^ old pewter, Coffee ware brot home by Roman has allowed 25^l^. for the whole, which you have cred^t^ for.

M^r^. Potts wrote me lately that he should send your spirits &c by the first opp^ty^ to Polo. or Prap^k^., if M^r^. Blane sends his also you will have a double stock. however let them do as they will, their drafts on y^r^ Acc^t^ shall be honord. I am exceedingly obliged to you for the consignment this year of the hhd^s^ of y^r^ own Tob^o^ & 25 of Col. G. Lees Estate. The Sales of y^r^ own Tob^o^ will be good — you have with this Acc^t^ Sales for the 17 hhd^s^ of G. Lees Estate Rec^d^ of J. Brown nett proceeds £101. 7. 4. to the credit of said Estate, the Sales for those of Roman with y^r^ own shall be sent very soon. I have settled with the Eliza's owners & Roman fully, except the latter still claims freight on Col. Taylors Iron according to his bills of loading, which he says were fill'd up & deliver'd to you, without y^r^ making any objection to the article of freight. I have refused to pay as being uncustomary & so it rests 'till we hear from you & Col. Taylor on the subject.

Will you also let me know whether I am to pay D^r^. Shepherds Acc^t^ fully as he sent it to you ag^t^ M^r^. G. Lee. all the Bills on me you advised of having indorsed, viz. 2 of Romans, & M^r^. R. C. Jacobs — Ja^s^. Seldens order is to his debit tho' he has not near as much in my hands, but I am greatly at a loss for the reason why I sh^d^. give a man credit in paym^t^. of a bond & allow him for his order only on myself 5 ff C^y^. more than for bills of Exch^a^ where the value was in my own hands. Brown was allowed by Ritchie 20 ff C^y^. & Roman by y^r^ self 25 ff C^y^. for their drafts on me. I note what you say July 4. respecting the remittances for the servants — the 2^d^ of 8 hhd^s^ Tob^o^ of Michal viz 3454. & one hhd of Roman is right — there is still 2258 lbs Tob^o^

that which I hope may be remitted this year as well as the money & I hope the Tob.o will be better than that already rec.d — I trust you will not think I mean to complain by mentioning what follows, because I know 'twas not y.r fault — One of the hhds brot by Rayson was so bad that I lost by landing it above £3 — besides the freight; all those by Mitchell were as bad as possible & one of them so perfectly rotten, that I shall loose at least £10. by unfortunately not burning the whole at the King's scale. 'Tis as much dirt, as any in y.r garden. These Tob.os were all from Northumberland. In these things we must take our chance; for 'tis the fate of Commerce, sometimes to loose, as well as gain. Y.r favor of Augs.t 29. from Prowsby Hall came duly to hand, but I have never had a line from the Whites; however Cap.t Brown carries out servants among which 'tis more than probable the Gent. may get such as they want & at a much cheaper rate than pay & them wages.

I will not detain you long on so disagreeable a subject as Roman, I have been exceedingly vex'd that you had so much trouble with such a wretch. I did not pay him 1/. for demorrage as you had very prudently furnished me with such ample documts to encounter his unjust demand of it. Indeed he may think himself very well off, that he does not pay me damages for his very vile misconduct. Y.r Boys are well, & have each of them wrote; their letters are inclosed. They are really such excellent children, that I feel a particular pleasure in having the care of them. If the Templar & myself sh.d do well their education will be properly attended to, & have no doubt of our Care being amply rewarded, by their Virtue & Merit.

Mr. Brodnax has at last sent me their Acct., I think up to Oct. & informs me he had before transmitted a duplicate of them to you, — they are within y^r limits — Y^r Acct & Cur^t & their shall be transmitted with the sale of my Tob^o ff Roman.

I have it much at heart & fondly hoped to be able to pay you a visit next summer, but from the critical situation of Public affairs I find it impossible to leave this place with any degree of prudence, therefore concurring in opinion with our B^r A. — & some other prudent friends have adopted the mode which you will learn with this, as the only eligible one & must defer my own visit 'till 1796. — Offered Captn Blackwell the command of my Potomack ship, which he declined accepting for the present as he was engaged: therefore as Captn Brown behaved in the Eliza to the entire satisfaction of our B^r Loudoun, & gave general satisfaction to my friends on Rapp^k I have chartered the Adventure a ship of 430 or 40 tons wch he now carries out to load for me. His orders are to stop in the mouth of Rapp^k & immediately wait on Loudoun to be directed whether to carry his ship up Rapp^k or Polo: to load & in all things respecting it to follow y^r joint directions.

These instructions were necessary from my not being certain where you might direct him to take in his loading. If in Rapp. of course Loudoun being nearest will take the chief direction & if in Polo. you w^d have the principal management. — But my own plan is, unless you see proper to direct otherwise, for him to load in Potomack, where it will be very hard indeed if he can't get full in 90 lyde days, with the assistance of my old friends, the Gent. of Richmond, Hudson & Danl Muse, John Mills & Triplett

& Thornton. The Polo: Gent. are always very anxious to have a ship in very early & yet I have observed their Tob.o is never all ready 'till June, especially that from their plantations above. You will know whether it is worth the expence & time for the Capt.n to go up to Fredericksb.g & will direct him accordingly, at all events it will remain particularly with you to contrive ab.t getting Col. Martins, Mr Sam.l the Mr. Warner Washingtons Tob.o from Fredericksb.g, Mr Martin Pickett & Ch.s Bell, from Fauquier. Sh.d the Adventure bear in Polo. where she surely may get full very easily, it will be well to admonish Capt.n B. from taking any Tob.o from the S.o Side of Rapp.k, because I shall certainly either charter 300 hhds in Outrams or send another ship to Rapp. — Should the Trusts agree to ship Tob.o in paym.t of their debts, a ship may be charter'd at Norfolk for that purpose. The Adventure will bring from 420 to 440 hhds, with 300 in Outrams makes only 750 in all, when my mercantile correspondents on Polo. & Rapp. sh.d in Justice send me 1000 hhds of Tob.o next year, so that I cannot think you will be in the least perplex'd with Brown or Outrams. As I take it for granted that the Congress will meet again in May at Philad.a sh.d Brown have a tolerable passage, you will have 6 Weeks or two months to settle the plans of operations for him before you set off for the Congress. He has some cheese, Porter & Lemons for you & my other friends; besides raisins, almonds &c for their entertainment on board his ship. Mr Jumonville's Son has continued to behave so ill, that I am obliged to return him now to his Father; in this I have been advised by our Br.r A. & Mr Jennings

should Mr Turberville be displeased / as the youth is not to be depended on in his relation of things / pray desire to see the letters I have now sent to him & you will easily be able to convince him of the impropriety of my conduct. I have not rec'd any letter from you since that from Pranby Hall. Our B.r Arthur has kindly taken on himself to write you fully on Politicks, in which we both agree; his letters go with this & I beg your serious attention to them. I wish, with Mrs Lee every happyness to our D.r Sister & the children & am most affectionately Yours

You have the last papers &c. William Lee

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(No 64)

Wm Lee
Dec. 24th 1774

To
Col. Richard Henry Lee
Chantilly
Potomac River

1774

Wm Aylmer
Col. Richard Henry Lee

24 Dec. 1774
Wm Lee Esq.
Commissioner &c.
[illegible]

Col. Francis Lightfoot Lee

My Dear Brother.

London 24 Dec. 1774

I have already informed you that it is impracticable for me to visit you next summer, tho' I so earnestly wished to do it; therefore have taken Mr. ~~Bro~~ Edward Browne the Bearer into Partnership & recommend him to yr particular favor & protection. Mr. Browne is very intimately acquainted with the Tob.o trade & has been with me ever since I have been in business; therefore is perfectly acquainted with all my mercantile connections, & plans. He can readily settle & adjust my Acc.ts & has an abstract of all my Virg.a debts, with a state of yr Agency Acc.t as it stands on my books which I wish you to examine together & rectifie any thing that may be amiss, particularly the Bal. of N. Harrisons protested bill. I have never heard a word from W. Lewis ab.t his protest. He sh.d also settle Jas. Miller's acc.t a/c which you had a copy in 1770.

Mr. Browne's being in partnership is not made public here as my business will be carried on in the old firm, viz, William Lee only, therefore shall leave it with you & your Bro.r Rich.d Lee who are the only persons in Virginia that I have acquainted w.th it, to determine whether it will be advisable to make it public in Virginia, or not. You know the temper of the people & therefore can judge whether it will be best to have it publickly known in Virginia

or not. I think you will find Mr. Browne worthy of your confidence & may safely confer with him very fully on any subject of business. He will wait on you immediately on his arrival & take your advice how to proceed. If you find it necessary you may draw on Mr. Hanbury or Mr. Browne, may indorse good merchants bills for what Tob.o they ship on the old plan; viz. at a reasonable price & bid, stay, at 5 or 6 £ ℔. as you may agree, the bills to be drawn after the ship sails — You know the plan & will act as the occasion requires; tho' in my opinion the great object will be to get as many effects as possible out of the hands of debtors, before the exportation of Tob.o is stop'd.

Mr. Browne is to leave Virg.a in Aug.st or Sept. before which I hope you & our Bro.r H. will agree in recommending an Agent who may be appointed in 1776. if it is not in my power to visit you myself that year, which at present I firmly intend. You recmend a Mr. Lee & Dr. H. Tho.s John Lawson — agree on a Scotsman that I may not be disappointed. — Mr. Lawson I know well, he is good natured & well esteemed in Northumberl.d & Lancaster where at present my interest is as strong as it can possibly last, for the Tob.o in general is a Scotsman a quality that the Virginian will often loose at this market, unless he imports family goods for the value; & Mr. Lawson is not much fitted for forming new connections, being rather shy; & in my opinion, very indolent, with no knowledge in business. These are my sentiments for your private correction, but act as you judge best.

Mr. Browne will be totally directed by you, therefore I leave him under your wing & am Most Affectionately Your

William Lee

Col Francis Lightfoot Lee

My Dear Brother

London 24 Dec? 1774

I wrote you pretty fully the 6th
p 6th Sept. & Eden to which he pleased to refer.

I have before me ays several favors of 3d p 19 July
p 8th Aug! I feel myself so very greatly obliged
to ays affectionate friendship, that it gives me pain
because I cannot devise any possible method, by which I can make
you, by any means, a tolerable return; for Gratitude
is with me one of the Cardinal Virtues; you must
therefore accept the will for the deed at present & put up
with my most hearty thanks, 'till something more sub-
stantial offers. In the course of this year I have rec'd of ays
Tob? 8 hhds, & Brown, 4 & Roman & 3, the other day & Ro-
berton three & P. are all sold, on an average at 2½
which is a very good price. I do not send the sales now
having so much of that work on my hands, & know you
will give me grace for a month or two, as it cannot
make any difference, & then you may have the whole sales
together. I am much obliged to you for this consignment.

Hopkins did not send me any thing & Roman, not even
a Letter, you have his Acc? proved & Eden. I have just rec?
from the Trent several Companies 31 hhds of Tob?, they
are now landed but so miserably damaged that they will

be a long time on my hands before they can possibly be sold, espe-
cially at this season of the year when all the foreign ports are
froze up & will continue so 2 or 3 Months. Since my Acct Curt
sent to T. & Thornton bal. then due to me £2679 5 — they are Dr.
for goods p Mitchell in June last £193.6.2. besides Guaranties
for the punctual remittance & payment of £325 upwards for
goods shipd in June last to M.r H. Washington & their Br.s Georges
estate, they having ordered the goods — since which their Acct
Curt they are to have cred.t for £100 Curt paid Norman, nett pro-
ceeds of 11 hhds Tob.o p Mitchell & Dudleman £252.13.3., of
18 hhds p Brown, 2 p Norman, & 13 p Robertson; which if you allow
on an average £5 p. hhd, will shew that they have not yet re-
mitted for the goods shipd when M.r Thornton was here.
This is worry worth indeed, but still better than M. Murrow
has not as yet remitted for half of his first cargoe, not one
shilling for that shipd last winter — Hopkins & John Gordon
are much worse. J. Mills has done as much as I ever expect-
ed he could do. — Mr. Smith has only remitted a few hhds
of Tob.o in part of his goods p Outram upwards of £1000. now
due within two months. Thus you have a concise state of the
situation of my mercantile correspondents, & must request you
will advise the Bearer how to proceed respecting these Gentle-
men so as to get the greatest possible remittance before y.r ex-
portation of Tob.o ~~then~~ is stopped. I was sincerely anxious to ac-
complish ~~the~~ design ~~the (Design~~ I long since mentioned of
visiting Virginia the next Spring, but viewing with calmness
the precarious State of Public Affairs & considering every cir-
cumstance in its proper light, it is not to be accomplished
with any degree of prudence; therefore have adopted the
mode, which you will know by the accompanyments with
this, as the most eligible at present, in every point of view, &

entirely in conformity with our B^r F's opinion & other real friends to me. No other argument is wanting to convince me that my presence in Virginia wd be of infinite utility to my own affairs than any opinion, but it cannot be accomplish'd this season; however the summer after, if American rights are not then settled on a firm & solid basis, let the consequence to me be what it will, I am determined to pay you a visit & perhaps a serious one; for the present difference between G. Britain & the States of America appears to me in a much more important light, than it does to most people here. I trust America is sound; & I know them here to be so rotten, that I cannot really think, the contest can be fully settled in less than two years at least; & without an explicit compliance with the terms insisted on by the Congress, I as an American will never cease my opposition, & I hope no other American ever will. ——

You have inclosed my Acc^t Cur^t agst the Estate of John Carter Esqr (Dec^d) Bal. due to me £ 41. 18. 8. with interest thereon from Jan. 30. 1775. 'till paid in London; you must know the Exec^rs therefore pray endeavor to get this bal. remitted this year either in good bills or Tob^o. —— The interest must not by any means be given up, as it will exceed the comission on his gds which will be the case with Sinclair if his interest is remitted to him. In every part of the American trade, where the commissions far exceed those in the Virginia trade, a great portion of the goods are paid for, before they are ship'd; Int. is charged as regularly on open Acc^ts as on bonds. Still goods are not ship'd on such good terms to any other of the Colonies, as I do to Virginia, & yet my correspondents murmur at pay^g me interest. —— I offer'd Blackwell the command of the first ship I sent to Virginia, but he choose to continue in m^r Prus-

Service y as you seem'd to approve much of Capt Brown he is now sent out in the Adventure a ship of abt 230 hhds to load for me. ___ His orders are to be guided entirely by you your Bs. Mr H. Lee respecting his Road & where he is to lye. As soon as he arrives in the mouth of Rapt he is to wait on you for orders where to lye either in Rapt or Potos ___ In determining this you are to consider he has above 30 Servants on board for Sale, in which he is Bs concerned, Jam Bs & another person Bs Concern'd, The Capt is to have the selling them as he is a part concerned. McRussells ship has carried out 80, or go to Potom, & Campbells ship has just sailed for Rapt with the Convicts, in this situation you will be best able to determine for Capt Brown in what river he is most likely to make an advantageous sale. With regard to loading the ship my idea is, that he shd lye in Pots. where with the Rapt Tob from Mess. Triplett, the Gentlemen in Richmond, Lancaster & mine: Smith if requisite, I shd think he may readily get loaded y ar I shall take a charter in Outram of 300 hhds he can bring all the remainder of the Rapt Tob ___ Should there be any still remaining, a charter may be easily got in Virginia, which will be absolutely necessary, if the Trusts shd agree to remit in Tob ___ Thus you have my opinion of the business, but leave it to you to regulate it as you think best after seeing Capt Brown, & you will direct him accordingly, at yr first meeting, as the ship cannot wait long for yr determination where she is to lye.

Mungo Rhoe's bill which you indorsed for £35. was accepted & tho' the time is long since expired since it was due it has never appeared for payament. The bills pay^e to Hipkins & not indorsed, being not remitted by himself in a letter directing me to give him credit for them, cannot possibly be charged to the drawers, or applyed to his Cred^t, for the property of the bills untill indorsed, — is absolutely & only in Hipkins, his Ex^rs &c — this Mr Justice, may it please y^r worship, & with all due submission I tho^t have thought you knew. Thus they must rest, till he pleases to indorse them. Capt Brown has a Graphic piarel for our Sister, & Porter Lemons &c for our friends, — he will not forget a you I dare say; if he sh^d, put him in mind. Not a letter have I rec^d from you of a later date than that in Augt from Urbanna. A you & R. H. will do me mast essential service, if you can pacify. T. Turner & P. P. Thornton Esqr for their bills being protested. I really could not pay them in Justice to myself & my creditors here.

A y^r own Judgement will readily tell you how absolutely necessary it will be to get as much as possible remitted before the non exportation takes place. Col. Tarpley & John Champe each owe me the value of 2 or 3 hhd^s Tob^o, & A. Stratwood much above 100 £, it will be prudent to push them, as well as Hipkins & Jno Gordon & the Mures. Our B^r Arthur has undertaken to write fully on Politicks, so I have nothing to say on that head but earnestly to advise that every measure may be taken to confirm the Americans in their present spirit & to take every possible prudent measure to defeat the most hellish & diabolical schemes that are planing here against you.

I must not be any uneasy appearances or flattering words, depend upon it I am not deceived in assuring you that the K. & P. & M. — are your inveterate enemies & that nothing but necessity will induce them to change the present iniquitous system. In less than twelve months after the American trade is completely stopped the Merch.ts & Manufacturers will feel that your cause is their own & will consequently fight y.r battles. At present the trading interest is quite easy, owing to y.r exports continueing a year longer than y.r imports.

I shall write you as often as occasions offer & beg you to do the same from. Mr. Lee joins me in wishing every happiness to you & your Dear Sister with sincere affection I am

Yours William Lee

My Dear Bro.

London, 24 Dec. 74.

I wrote you pretty fully the 3d & 6th Sept. ult. Eaton to which beg leave to refer. I have before y. favor of 3. & 19th July & 8th Aug. I feel myself so very greatly obligd to y. affect. friendship that it gives me pain because I cannot devise any possible method by wch I can make you by any means a suitable return for Gratitude is with me of the cardinal virtues; you must therefore accept the will for the deed & present & put up with my most hearty thanks for something more substantial for. In the course of the Year I have rec'd of J. Tobo & Hdr & Brown 4 & Roman & 3 the other Day & Robertson three & Brown are all sold on an Average at 2.2 wch is a very good price — I do not send the Sales now having so much of that work in my hands & knowing you will give me grace for a month or two as it cannot make any difference & then you may have the whole Sales together. I am much obligd to you for those Consignments. Hipkins did not send me any thing & Roman, not so much as a Letter. You have his Acct proved & Eaton. I have just rec'd from the Trustees several Comps 37 Hdr of Tobo they are now landed but so miserably damd that they will be a long time on my hands before they can possibly be sold especially at this season of the Year when all the foreign Post are frozen up & will continue for 2 or 3 months. Since my Acct Curt went to Triplett & Co. Ball there due to me £2679. 5 they are Dr for Goods & Mitchell in June last £193. 6. 2 beside, Guarantee for the punctual Remittance & payt of £325 & upwards for Goods ship'd in June last to M.W. Washington & his Br Henry's Estate they having sold the Goods. Since sending their Acct Curt they are to have Credit for £100 Currency pr Roman & Pr proceeds of 47 Hdr Tobo & Mitchell & Dutchman £232. 15. 3 of 18 Hdr & Brown 2 & Roman & 45 & Robertson; wch if you allow upon an Average £5 & Hd will show that they have not yet remitted for the Goods ship'd

whose

where Mr Thornton was here. This is worry work indeed but still better than
Mr Inness who has not got remitted for half of his first Cargo & not one
shilling for that ships last Winter. Hopkins & John Gordon are much
worse. Mr Hills has done as much as I ever expected he would do.
Mr Smith has only remitted a few Hhds of Tobo in part of his Goods —
& Tatham upwards of 1000£ now due within 4 Months. Thus you have
a concise state of the situation of my mercantile correspondents, I
must request you will advise the Bearer how to proceed respecting
these Gentlemen so as to get the greatest possible remittance before
the arrival of Tobo is hoped. I was sincerely anxious to accomplish
the design I long since mentioned of visiting Virga the next spring,
but viewing with calmness the precarious state of Public affairs
and considering every circumstance in its proper light, it is not to be
accomplished with any degree of prudence, therefore have adopted the
mode, which you will well know by the accompanyments with this as
the most eligible at present in every point of view, entirely in
conformity with our Bs Ale opinion & other real friends to me. No other
arguments are wanting to convince me that my presence in Virga
is of infinite utility to my own affairs than my opinion, but it cannot
be accomplished this season; However the Summer after, if American
rights are not then settled on a firm & solid basis, let the consequence
be what it will I am determined to pay you a visit & perhaps a more
than one, for the future difference between this country & the states of Amer-
ica appears to me on a much more important light, than it does to
most people here. Great America is round & I know them long to
be

be so rotten, that I cannot ~~Lose~~ really think, the contest will be fully settled in less than 2 Years at least, & without an explicit compliance with the terms insisted on by the Congress, I as an American ~~never~~ will never cease my opposition & I hope no other American ever will. You have inclosed my Acct. Curt. agt. the Est. of John Carter Esqr. deceased Balce. due to me £41. 13. 8 with interest thereon from Jan. 30. 1775 till paid in London; you must know the Exrs. therefore pray endeavour to get the Balce. remitted this year either in good Bills or Tob. — The intt. must not by any means be given up, as it will exceed the Comn. on his goods, which will be the case with Sinclair & his interest is to him. In every part of the American trade where the Comn. far exceeds ours in the Virga. trade, & a great portion of y. goods are paid for, before they are shipd, Intt. is charged as regularly on open Acct. as upon bonds. Mine goods are not shipt on such good terms to any of the Colonies, as I do to Virga. & yet my correspondts. murmur at having me Intts. I offered Capt. Blackwell the command of the first ship I sent to Virga. but he chose to continue in Mr. Russells service & as you seemd to approve much of Capt. Brown he is now sent out in the Adventure a ship of abt. 430 hhds to load for me. His orders are to be guided entirely by you & our Br. R. H. Lee respecting his load & where he is to lye. As soon as he arrives in the mouth of Rapt. he is to wait on you for orders where to lye either in Potc. or Rapk. In determining this you are to consider he has above 50 servts. on board y. vessel, in which he is 1/3 concernd, I am 1/3 & another person 1/3 concernd. The Capt. is to have the selling of them as he is part concernd.

4/ Mr Russells ship has carried out 80 or 90 to Jos. Campbells ship has just sail'd for Pat.k with the convicts, in this situation you will be best able to determine for Capt. Brown in what river he is most likely to make an advantageous sale. With regard to the loading the which my idea is, that he shd lye in St.e where with the Capt. Jos.h from Mess.rs Triplett &c. the Gen.l Bein Richmond, Lancaster & Mr Smith if requisite, I think he may readily get loaded & shall take a Charter in Subrana of 300 hhds: he can bring all the remainder of the Capt. Jos.h Should there be any while remaining a Charter may be easily got in Virg.a which will be absolutely necessary, of the Trents Shd agree to remit in Tob.o Thus you have my opinion of the business, but leave it with you to regulate it as you think proper after seeing Capt. Brown, & you will direct him accordingly, as to port meeting, as the ship cannot wait long for your determination where she is to lye. Skiango Roys bill which you endorsed for £35 was accepted & tho' the time is long since expired since it was due, it has never appeared for payment. The bills drawn by Hopkins & not endorsed being not remitted by himself in a letter directing me to give him credit for them, cannot possibly be charged to the drawer or applyed to his credit, for the property of the bills while indorsed is absolutely only in Hopkins has Ex.te. This Mr Justice, may it please your worship, & with all due submission I do know the you know. Then they must rest till he shall see it in some shape. Capt. Brown has a paper parcel for our Sister & Porter Simons &c. our friends. he will not forget you I dare say; if he do put him in mind.

Yet a letter have I rec'd from you of a later date than that in Aug.st
from Urbanna. You & R. H. will do me essential service, if you
can pacify M.r Snidow & P. Thornton Esq.rs for their bills being
protested. I really could not pay them in justice to myself &
creditors here. Your own judgement will readily tell you how
absolutely necessary it will be to get as much as possible remitted before
the non exportation takes place. Mr. Sargley, John Hampe owe me
the value of [illegible] bds of Pob.s & A Hodgwood much above £100 it will
be prudent [illegible] him as well as Hopkins, John Gordon & the Messrs.
Burt &c.a. have undertaken to write you fully on Politics, so have nothing
to say on that head but earnestly to advise that every measure may be
taken to conform the Americans in their present spirit, & to take every
possible prudent measure to defeat the most hellish & diabolical
schemes that are planning against you. Trust not to any specious
appearances, or flattering words, depend upon it I am not deceived
in assuring you, that the K— & Lds. B & M— are your inveterate present
enemies & that nothing but necessity will induce them to change their
iniquitous system. In less than 12 Mos after the American trade
is compleatly stopd, the Merch.ts & Manufs.rs will feel that your cause
is their own & will consequently fight & Battles. At present the
trading inter.st is quite easy, owing to y.r exports being continued a year
longer than your imports. I shall write you as often as opp.y offers &
beg you to do the same to me. W.m Lee &c.a — William Lee

(Copy) The Original & Adventure Capt.n Brown.

My dear Brother

It is with great pleasure, I inform you that the Proceedings of the general Congress, & the vigorous Preparations for effectual resistance, have rendered our cause so popular; & so intimidated Administration, that they seem determined to give us redress. The King received the Congress Petition very graciously, & is to lay it before his two Houses of Parliament as soon as the adjournment for the Holidays is over. It is whispered here for certain, that Lord Gower & Ld Hillsborough will be put into the places of Ld North & Ld Dartmouth, & that all the acts will be repealed except those for establishing Admiralty & Courts & declaring the Right. Should this be true, you will see with what ill-will this partial relief is given, & that they are determined to continue our apprehensions, by advancing our worst enemy & preserving those acts as the seeds of contention.

But you will certainly be of opinion with all our friends here, that nothing but a full & solemn ratified redress ought to satisfy us, & that the same Resolution, unanimity & firmness which have extorted a part will compel the whole.

I have visited on Ld Chatham with the Petition, on which & on all the Proceedings of the Congress he bestows the highest commendation. He is clearly for a full, solemn, authentic settlement of the dispute upon the Constitutional ground laid by the Congress, & will vigorously support it with all his abilities. I think, I shall get the Heads of opposition to unite with him, as I find them much disposed to it. This junction, with the

voice of the People here, & the firmness of America, will I trust compel our Oppressors to absolute Submission

My Love to Mrs Lee & Family

& mount Airy. Adieu

London Decr 26th 1774.

2 Inc. Com & Let

Berkley 27th Dec. 74

[illegible] Immediately on my Arrival [illegible] I wrote you, & committed [illegible] to the Care of Hunter, Post, to be forwarded [illegible] by one of the Mr. Fontaines, then [illegible] I gave Lawn of the Indian War [illegible]

I have only time to tell you, that a few Brave men on the conclusion of Harriot, laid down their Sickles & Pitch forks, took up their Rifles & Tomhawks, marched 60 miles without Noise or parade, joined the [illegible] Country, thrashed them, & returned on them most unexpecting. The whole was done before [illegible] could be done by all the Kings forces ever employed against them — Established the Peace of the Country & returned again to the Plow after the ancient Roman manner —

Let the Enemies of America hear this & Tremble! All this was done without asking money advanced either for Pay or Provisions.

I congratulate you & my Country, on the great figure the late Mr Christian has made at his first Election, & on his own Election, for I hear he is chosen.

Old fields may be [illegible] Virginia & Maryland supplies & Supply in Virginia, have taken [illegible]

Madison

Under Consideration next Assembly. Give a Freeman's Vote! Invite every person who has a Tobacco house near Obliged to make some

Tarr might Pitch Pine Troughs is very Easy — and there is great Quantity; especially in — proximity with Salt Water Navigation — so that in the North Side of Rappa, you can Scrape up half a Barrel of Tarr Salt Water Blue —

It is necessary to give at least 15s for every Wolf killed in Berkely, Fodoway, Hampshire, Dan— more, Culpepper Fauquier & Loudon Counties Scalp from the Counties poster with likewise come into the Court House to Swear to the Scalp & then Court to Law, Let this Contiguous Counties pay for them among them— selves. The Wolves catchers can bring them from a Contiguous County, by Affidavit or the Testimonium of a Grand Jurie, for which Case or Include the Contiguous Counties.

Several alterations are necessary in the Militia Laws, as the Captains at the General Musters, Musical Assemble Sergeant Major, let it be by the Majority here (which is only Justices in the Ward present)

When Negroes are mentioned under the Savegion Act, they should be under the Articles of War, especially when engaged, unless in making an Alarm or other Such Agreed many Stout men, Sweet Lows

shall

in Lewis

on Lewis. Battle by not being Supported, whether the fault of Officers or men I cannot say; but it is dreadfull to be Abandoned on day of Battle.

At a Muster, a great many idle people met, for occasion discharge — not belonging to the Company mustered; Let them be Ly'd Rusty or heel, or be under the same Law as the company mustred.

They have impudence sometimes to blame Good the Officers — Please to forgive my troubling you with these Hints; but it is because I think they are for our Countrys good, & that I am Sensible it's Officers Modest for you to Support them —

I wish you a happy year & am with

Esteem &c &c

Adam Stephen

Berkley
27th Dec 1774

Adam Stephen
Letter Dec.r 27. 1774

No. 365

the alarming procedure of the
H. Parliament, and the Americ
meet in general Congress at Phila
to consult on proper measures
general Safety. This Congress agree
a petition to the King stating their grieva
assuring their loyalty, & supplicatin
redress. This Petition was transmitted with
the following letter to the colonial agents
in London.

To Paul Wentworth Esq.r Doc.r Benjamin
Franklin, William Bollan Esq.r Doc.r
Arthur Lee Thos. Life Esq.r Edmund
Burke Esq.r & Charles Garth Esq.r
Gentlemen Philadelphia Oct.r 26.th 1774

We give you the strongest proof
of a warm & zealous attachment
to the happiness of America, & the cause of
liberty, when we commit the enclosed petition
to your care. We desire you will present

unto the hands of his majesty, & for it,
ested, we wish it may be made public
e, together with the list of grievances
hope for great assistance from the spirit
e of the nation, it is our earnest desire
ost effectual measures be taken, as early
, to furnish the leading cities & many
towns, thro' out the United king-
doms of America, to the people of Eng-
land. We doubt not but your good sense
will lead you to avoid inconsistencies of every
particular, that may be devised from the
advice & friendship of all great & good men
who may incline to assist the cause of liberty
& mankind. The gratitude of America, expressed
in the enclosed vote of thanks we desire
may be conveyed to the deserving objects of
it, in the manner you think may be most
acceptable to them. It is proposed that ano-
ther congress be held on the 10th of May
next, at this place: but in the mean
time, we beg the favour of you gentlemen
to transmit to the Speaker of the several Assem-
blies, the earliest information of the most
authentic accounts you can collect
of all such conduct & designs of Administry
or Parliament, as it may concern America
to know. We are &c &c.

Signed Henry Middleton Presd.

W Bollan D.r Franklin & myself were the only Agents that would act. We presented the Petition thro L.d Dartmouth to the Throne & recd an answer from that Nobleman, — that his Majesty had received it very graciously & for its importance would lay it before his two houses of Parliament as soon as they should meet.

The ministerial tone was now much softned because the Petition & the Address to the People, were expressed in terms of great moderation & good sense, that they made a very favorable impression upon the public mind. I knew the King & his ministers too well to trust to their prospects. I therefore thought it necessary to warn my Countrymen against the delusion of these appearances. With this view I wrote to my Brother R. H. Lee, who was a member of Congress the following letters, which I knew he would communicate with speed. (* This letter & that to R. H. Lee and his answer to it are omitted.")

London, Dec.r 22.d 1774

My dear Brother, The proceedings of Congress

(* The Letters, with a note containing the complimentary expressions of Lord Chatham, on the subject of the addresses of Congress, will be found in No. 1 of the Appendix, amongst the Letters of R. H. Lee.

met with universal approbation here, & have operated
like an electrical shock upon the Ministry & their
dependants. They begin to reprobate their own
measures, each endeavoring to exonerate himself
from the charge of having advised them.
The King has consented to receive the petition
of Congress & L.d Parliament told us it was founded
be very decent & respectful. I expect we shall re-
ceive his Majesty's answer in time to send by this.

The Merchants have advertised for
a meeting, every thing seems to promise
a speedy accommodation. The terms of that
must depend on you. Your demands are
made with great moderation. I should not,
nay I think cannot, be receded from a
single iota. Depend upon it, the same
firmness & unanimity which have com-
pelled a conciliatory disposition, will
enforce a full redress. Be therefore firm,
& fear not.

The excess of my anxiety for
the ultimate event of these unhappy dis-
turbances, makes me sometimes apprehensive, that these specious appearances

will

will make you remiss, in your preparation for a different conduct. That you will forget — That he who sheaths the sword before peace is concluded, exposes himself to a shameful defeat — But relying on your wisdom, I trust you will treat them as appearances only, which firmness, vigilance & unanimity on your part, can alone realize.

Dec.r 24th 1778

L.d Dartmouth this day informed us, that his Majesty had received the petition very graciously & for its immediate redress would lay it before his two houses of Parliament, as soon as they met. They are adjourned for the holidays.

I communicate to you the following copy of a letter from L.d Chatham because I think it must give you a pleasing satisfaction. At the same time I

entreat you not to let it get into the press, because it will be a breach of honor in me.

Ld Chathams note

"I have not words to express my satisfaction that the Congress has conducted this most arduous & delicate business, with such manly wisdom & calm resolution, as does the highest honor to their deliberations. Very few are the things contained in their resolves that I would wish had been otherwise. Upon the whole I think it must be ~~made~~ evident to every unprejudiced man in England, who feels for the rights of mankind, that America, under all her oppressions & provocations, holds forth to us the most fair & just opening for restoring harmony & affectionate intercourse as heretofore. I trust that the minds of men are now beginning to open on this great subject so little understood, & that it will be found impossible for Englishmen in England, to set three millions of Englishmen slaves in

Sincerely"

Such praise from the character of the age, ought to inspire you with confidence — if any thing can add to the conscious dignity of freemen — & make you resolve to maintain your demands with immovable firmness

Farewell. P. L.

Dec 9th 1774 — I was yesterday in the country with Lord Chatham, to shew him the Petition of Congress. He approves of it exceedingly. His words were — The whole of your countrymen's conduct, has manifested such wisdom, moderation & firmness of character, as would have done honor to Greece or Rome in their best days. Laudari a laudatis ought to make us cautious that we support this character, by a manly perseverance in those measures which procured it. His opinion is — that of a solemn settlement of the question by a renunciation of the right of taxation, on the one part, & an acknowledgement of the supremacy on the other — My object is, to unite the plan

of oppression upon our brethren in Boston in large proportion with the popularity of our cause at present, will, I think, enforce the compleat abolition of these pernicious measures.

I have this moment learned that the resolution of the Court, is — to repeal all the acts but declaratory & admiralty acts complete — That L.d North & Dartmouth are to give place to Lord Gower & Hillsborough, who are to commence their Administration with these conciliatory measures. The utter inconsistency of this plan with their former system, is no objection to the probability of it; for these men have been dwindled to learn & learn & learn again. But one would hope it may prove, that there is little credulity in the world to be given. That we are to meet a pension'd over the measures of men whose success is retarded against us by resentments of the bitterest character & revenge. One will consider this as intelligence of a doubtful nature; yet we hastily gleam a hope we shall very soon be made more certain of their exertions to relax in the terms they demand.

Samuel.

To the People of Great Britain and Ireland

We the Delegates from the english Colonies of New-Hampshire, Massachusets Bay, Connecticut, Rhode-Island, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Lower Counties on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina & South Carolina assembled in general Congress at Philadelphia, find with inexpressible concern that his Majesties faithful and loyal Subjects of North America are driven by the hard necessity of their Situation to adopt Measures from which injury may be derived to many of their fellow subjects in Great Britain and Ireland. When the experience of a Century and an half evinces that from the first settlement of these Colonies, their Inhabitants have been most remarkable for steady loyalty, and for an uniform zealous attachment to the interest and commercial Views of the mother Country, a candid mind will find no difficulty in believing what is certainly true: that their conduct now results solely from the overruling principles of self preservation, which demands the Protection of their Liberty, the Security of their lives and property, against a lately adopted System of Plantation government, repugnant to the english constitution, the faith of Charters, and constant Usage from the first settlement of englishmen in North America: Against which System the Assemblies of the different Colonies have by humble and dutiful petitions frequently but in vain supplicated for relief.

The possession of Liberty and the security of property being of such great and evident importance, so essentially necessary for human happiness, so earnestly contended for and so long enjoyed by Britain from whence we sprung; it is not to be wondered at that our Ancestors before they would hazard their lives and venture their private fortunes to explore and settle

this

this distant country, obtained royal charters, power and confirming to them and their Posterity forever, all the Franchises privileges and immunities of the free people of England they left behind them. It is most certain that nothing but an undeviating attention to their charter rights and a firm reliance on the honor and justice of the mother country could have sustained them unaided, unassisted as they were, in their slow and perilous advances to settlement through the savage Wilderness. But the industry of human nature being invincible when led by Liberty and a conscious Security of Property, the first Settlers having with fortitude and perseverance surmounted the greatest difficulties, their Posterity with the aid of emigrants, at length furnish the mother country with an inexhaustible fund of materials for commerce, with an almost unlimited demand for british manufactures, and consequently produce employment for several hundred sail of Ships and many thousand Seamen. How well known how greatly the american trade has increased the value of Lands in Britain, and what multitudes of People are entirely supported by the american Consumption of british merchandize. Such immense advantages being derived from the enterprizing and successful adventure of our Ancestors, how well are their defendants entitled to a peaceable Possession of those just rights originally stipulated for by them and to them granted by former Princes, we leave to the determination of all reasonable men — Soon after the close of the last war, all British America was stricken with amazement and concern, to find the Ministry had adopted a plan for taking the Property of the Colonists from them without the consent of their Representatives, under the Pretence of raising a Revenue in America for the purposes of defending and protecting the Colonies, and for sup-

subjecting the Government and Administration of Justice
have with the further plausible reason of compensating Great
Britain a part of the Expence incurred by defending the
Colonies in the last war — To enforce this unconstitutional
and unjust System of Taxation, ever since that the wisdom
of our british Ancestors had carefully erected against Arbitrary
power, has been violently thrown down in America, and a
variety of Acts of Parliament have been passed depriving the
american Subjects of the invaluable Trial by Jury in Cases of
Property, by enabling the Prosecutor to carry the defendants
into fardistant Courts of Admiralty. And aswell by a late
Statute in the year of his present Majesty's reign
as by an extension of an obsolete and tyrannic Act of King
Henry the eighth, the same equitable method of Trial in
cases that touch life is likewise taken away from the Colonists,
who are to be carried in chains 3000 miles from their native
country without evidence or assistance of friends, to be tried
by a Jury of strangers. A standing Army with all its oppres-
sive concomitants has been placed among us without our consent.

The colony of Massachusets Bay has had its antient
charter subverted, fifty thousand People in the Town
of Boston invested by military violence, and the horrid Crime
of murder there encouraged by an act authorizing the removal of Offenders from the justice of the Province
and encouraging them to Great Britain, when dis-
tance and expence will greatly prevent their being followed —
Nor has the fury of administration stopped here, but determ-
ined to destroy both the religion & Liberty of british
America they have procured an act of the last Session
for extending the Province of Canada in such manner

as

as to border on the western frontiers of all the British Colonies, and there establish a despotic Government, and the roman catholic religion, well knowing from the faith of history that this bloody and intolerant religion is at such fatal variance with Protestantism, that the inhabitants of that now greatly extended Country will thereby be well fitted both from civil & religious Principles to carry Slaughter and destruction into the few protestant Colonies whenever they shall be encouraged by a wicked Ministry to do so. — It has been already observed that the ostensible reasons which have been assigned for this Attempt to destroy naturals, constitutionals, chartered, and antient rights, is for the purpose of raising a revenue to protect and defend the Colonies, to support Government and the Administration of Justice here and to reimburse Great Britain the Expence of defending the Colonies in the last war. The two former reasons are sufficiently answered by stating this notorious fact, that from the first Settlement of the Colonies until the late war they sustained those Expences themselves and during the Continuance of that war, having at their own charge supported men, in doing which our late & present Sovereigns were so well satisfied, that we had consulted our Zeal for the common cause more than our Ability, that declarations from the throne to this effect abound on the Journals of Parliament, recommending the Justice of reimbursing us, and although Parliament did vote considerable sums for this purpose, yet it is a truth well known that these were chiefly applied to the further support of the war

war and in consequence did not operate to remove the Burthens created by these Zealous and overstrained Efforts against the common enemy — The royal recommendation to Parliament to reimburse the Colonies is founded upon this clear principle of substantial Justice, that wealth, the Sinews of war, is withheld from the Colonists by the British acts of Navigation which place them under a monopolized Trade, confining their purchase of European Commodities to the british markets and directs the Disposal of american Products through the same Channel, which in fact obliges the Colonists who consume british Merchandize to the amount of three millions annually, to pay the Taxes of all Manufacturers, Merchants and Seamen concerned in making, selling and transporting the same. In the Acts of Navigation thus far, and not by unconstitutional Taxation, a just and rational Man will search for & find the american assistance of the common cause. — Conclusive as this reasoning is yet the Colonists have given ample testimony in the two last wars of their Zeal and readiness to strain every Nerve in aid of the mother country, whenever called upon to do so in a constitutional manner by royal requisitions to their respective Colony Assemblies. — When we contend against being taxed by the british parliament where we are not, and in which from our Distance we cannot be represented we find ourselves warranted by reason, the english

Constitu-

constitution, by express compact with our Prince, and by usage as old as the Settlement of those Colonies. We should certainly be Slaves if we were not exempted from such Taxation. Property must become too precarious for the Genius of a free people, which can be taken from them at the will of others who cannot know what Taxes such people can bear, or the easiest mode of raising them; and who are not under those restraints which are the greatest Security against abuse, the Danger of [illegible] removed at a new election and being themselves affected by every tax imposed on the people. It cannot be necessary for us to prove to a British understanding that Liberty is essential to human happiness, and that the Safety of property is the security of Liberty; every page of english history proves their generous brave attachment to these principles; and we should be unworthy of the british Ancestry which is now our boast, if we did not esteem our constitutional Liberty far above the possession of Life, disgraced with the Shackles of Slavery — It grieves us to find that some malignant Spirits in Great Britain charge us with designing independency and wanting to dissolve all connection with the parent State — To such incendiaries, foes to the happiness of both countries, we reply, that our whole history from the beginning, our uniform tenor of conduct is directly in the teeth of their assertion. And altho' we cannot help being misrepresented by the Agents of despotism & avarice, we absolutely and solemnly disavow all thoughts of Dominion from Great Britain, (and we do profess and declare our steady loyalty to our

Sovereign Lord King George the third, and our ardent wish to promote the glory happiness and commercial interest of the Mother Country, which would be in imminent danger indeed, if three millions of people already in these Colonies by submitting to Slavery should render themselves fit Instruments to enslave the rest of their fellow subjects; a fate, it would seem, in great favor with administration, who design the ruin of American Liberty by establishing Popery and Despotism in Canada, that thereby the people and property of all North America being at Ministerial devotion, may with great effect be applied to subdue that stubborn English Virtue, which heretofore contending for its darling Liberty, has proved the ruin of many wicked Ministers and evil Counsellors, too many of whom have of late years unhappily surrounded the Throne and vitiated the British councils, to the infinite distress and confusion of the whole Empire. Wherefore Parliament is pleased to restore us to the state we were in at the conclusion of the last war, by repealing the Acts claiming a right to, and establishing the means of raising a revenue in America; and those most oppressive Statutes against the Colony of Massachusetts Bay, because they have bravely contended for their own and

American freedom; when the Laws shall be declared against endangering the Life of every American by making him liable to transportation to England for Trial; when the dangerous Quebec Act is no more; these oppressive grievances being removed, we shall think no longer of restraining our Exports and Imports, but intent on promoting the common interest and happiness of the united Empire, will be industrious improve the vast uncultivated territory of North America and being chiefly engaged in Agriculture, the commodities for exportation, and the consumption of British Manufactures will be continually increasing. But this most desirable connection between Great Britain and the Colonies, supported by such a happy intercourse of reciprocal benefits, must be interrupted, if the people of America are distressed and ruined by unconstitutional Taxes. Their Liberty and antient rights being taken away, no encouragement to industry will remain, but ignorance and idleness the constant attendants on Slavery will overrun this great Continent, hitherto the seat of freedom, virtue, and growing Science.

(No 48) A Memorial from the Deputies of the several Colonies of assembled at Philadelphia on the 1st-
To the Gentlemen Merchants, 1774 and Manufacturers of G.
Britain Trading with North America
Friends and Fellow Subjects.

It is with the deepest and most heartfelt concern [~~unfeigned sorrow and anxiety~~ the present unhappy state of American affairs ~~seem to be liable to misconstruction~~ with candour & truth] that we find his Majesties faithful and loyal subjects of North America driven by the hard necessity of their situation, to adopt a measure, from which considerable injury may be derived to so many of their fellow subjects in G. B. But we hope Gentlemen for your piety and forgiveness when you reflect, that from the first settlement of this distant country by our Ancestors, until the year 1763, ~~(period)~~. These Colonies were ever remarkable for steady loyalty and for endeavouring to express their attachment to the interest and Commercial welfare of the Mother Country. The possession of Liberty & the security to property being objects of such great and palpable importance, and so essentially necessary for human happiness, and so earnestly contended for and so long enjoyed by Britain from whence we sprung, it is not to be wondered at, that our Ancestors before they would venture their own private hazard of life & fortune to explore and settle this Country, ~~(wild)~~ then possessed by savage Beasts and Men more savage, obtained a Charter from under the great Seal of King ~~James~~ the 1st opening and confirming to them, in consideration of their dangerous and expensive adventure, that they & their Posterity

for war should be free as the people of England they left behind them, nor should be ever taxed but by consent of their own Representatives. The good faith with which this stipulated assurance has been until lately complied with appears most fully from the journals of Parliament as well as from our own Records. By the former we see that when Parliament proposed bills by which Am might be affected Messages were sent to the Commons requiring them to proceed no further, and alledging that "America was without the Realm & jurisdiction of Parliament"

and by the latter we find. It is most evident that nothing but this undeviating attention to our Charter rights, and a firm reliance on the honor and justice of the Mother Country could have sustained our Forefathers, unaided unassisted as they were, in their slow and perilous advance to settlement thro' this, at that time, almost impervious Wilderness. But the industry of human nature being unconquerable when led by Liberty and a conscious security of property, the first Settlers having with fortitude & perseverance overcome their first beginning difficulties, with the aid of their posterity Emigrants and Natural Population, at length purged the Land of the Savage and spread the Inhabitants of M. Country with an unexhaustable materials for Commerce with almost unlimited demand for British manufactures, and consequently produced employment for many thousand Seamen. Many of you Gentlemen know perfectly well how greatly the American trade has increased the value of Lands in Britain, and what multitudes of people are entirely supported by the American consumption of British goods. Such immense advantages being derived from the enterprising and successful adventure of our Ancestors, how well we their Descendants are entitled to a peaceable prosecution of those just

rights originally stipulated for by them, and to them granted by former Princes, we leave to the determination of all reasonable Men.
It grieves us to find that some malignant Spirits in Great Britain charge us with designing independency, and wanting to dispolve all connection with the Parent State. To such incendiary foes to the happiness of both Countries, we reply that our whole history from the beginning, our uniform tenor of conduct is directly in the teeth of their assertions. When the Acts of Navigation so fettered our Commerce, that in buying and selling we were confined from all Nations to Britain only (as we oppose; & when we manufacturing hands have been so tyed up that we are prevented under heavy penalties from having Tilt hammers, Slitting Mills, Steel furnaces, or exporting from one Colony to another Hats or Cloth of any kind — notwithstanding bountiful Nature has furnished us with plenty of Iron, Wood, waters, Furrs, and a fine Climate for raising Sheep. & And have we not contented ourselves with modest complaints and dutiful petitions against being compelled to encourage the coarse Home trade by not being allowed to prevent their admission into these Colonies, Do these things shew a spirit of independence, and or do they prove incontestibly that we are animated by a firm and cordial affection for G. B. and earnestly wish to promote her commercial happiness & success, conscious that we spring from her, and that as we may sometimes want protection it is but reasonable that our trade, and the advantage of manufacture should be confined to our Parent & Protector.
It would not be necessary for us to prove to a British understanding that Liberty is essential to human happiness, and that the safety of property is the security of Liberty. Every page of their history proves the generous

Address of the
Colonial Deputies
to the English Assembly
to
Gov. Lee

and [illegible] to their fraternity in this city we think can be best done by their following example. We cannot help but express our sentiments and feelings following their example. We cannot help but express our sentiments and feelings of Despotism and arbitrary measures which we abhor, and firmly disavow all thoughts or designs of [illegible] by [illegible] steady loyalty to our Sovereign K. Geo. 3 and our ardent wish to promote and secure by every means in our power the [illegible] and commercial interests of G. B. when we are [illegible] against Taxation by the British Parliament wherein we are not and cannot be represented, we flatter ourselves we are entitled by the English Constitution, by express Compact with our [illegible] and by usage as old as the settlement of these Provinces to hold certainly be ours if we are not exempted from such Taxation: Property must become too precarious for the genius of a free people which can be taken from them at the will of others who can at any time lay what Taxes such people may bear, or the easiest mode of raising them; and such are not under those restraints which are the greatest security against abuses. The danger of removal of a royal Governor affected by every [illegible] imposed on the people. When a Parliament is pleased to restore to Britain our right in the year 1764 by repealing those Acts claiming a right to, and stationing the means of raising a revenue in America, and those most obnoxious Statutes against our sister Colony of Massachusetts Bay because they have contended for their own and American freedom, when Ministry shall disavow the extention of that obsolete Tyrannic Act of the 35th of Henry eighth lately advanced

to endanger the life of every person in America by rendering him liable to transportation to England for trial, where distance, a jury of strangers, prejudiced courts, and weak evidence may all combine to destroy the most innocent person living. This and other unconstitutional methods of trial is rendered totally unnecessary by the Legislature being fully sufficient for the punishment of all who shall dare to commit Treason, and the Magistrates sworn for the execution of such laws. When we look upon these oppressive dangers and grievances we shall [illegible] no longer [illegible] our Exports and Imports [illegible] the Common interest and happiness of [illegible] shall be industrious to improve the [illegible] and being chiefly engaged in Agriculture the Commodities for exportation and the consumption of B. Manufactures will be continually increasing. But this most desirable connexion between G. B. and the Colonies supported by such a happy intercourse of reciprocal benefits as is continually advancing the prosperity of both must be interrupted if the people of America are [illegible] deprived by unconstitutional Taxes, of Liberty [illegible] yet being the Colonies [illegible] no encouragement to endure [illegible] but ignorance and [illegible] the attempts on Slavery must [illegible] that Continent hitherto the Seat of Liberty, Virtue & growing Science.

My dear Countrymen

In all our pursuits, where the end pursued is great & important, it becomes us to persevere in the most eligible means of obtaining it, with unremitting industry. Unforeseen obstacles only serve to rouse a greater activity to overcome them. There cannot propose a greater, or more truly important a pursuit, than that of regaining our invaded Liberties. From the means therefore ~~of accomplishing this~~, which prudence & wisdom have ever adopted to accomplish this; no contingency, which vigilance & vigor may surmount, should ever divert us.

You have, after very mature deliberation, determined that desisting from the importation of british manufactures, till a late grievous usurpation on your liberties be done away, is the most constitutional, easy & effectual method of obtaining redress. This is a proceeding which your friends have universally wished, your enemies as universally fear. No consideration can give a greater or more unquestionable sanction to the propriety of this measure, than that it was the hope of our friends, the dread of our enemies. Perseverance then in a conduct thus wisely adopted, we may be confident must, under God, be crowned with success.

The defection of New-York will indeed damp, but cannot destroy the operation of this agreement against importation, unless the rest of the Colonies should prove equally treacherous to their faith & interests. The effect of the importation to New-York has been to give, for a temporary satisfaction to those merchants & manufacturers whom it immediately relieved; & to furnish hopes to the rest, who are for the majority, that all the Colonies will soon follow the same example, & their trade be restored. Let your virtue disappoint their expectations; their necessities will soon compel them to take up your cause, with that energy & unanimity, which must infallibly

I will state to you truly & precisely, how this matter was conducted, from whence you will judge of the efficacy of importation.

The Ministry, well knowing how much depended on the success of their chief endeavors against new-York, there exerted all their efforts to have them withheld, because they had a powerful faction to cooperate with them in the execution of their purposes. The Merchants here too, wishing at all events to preserve their trade, seconded the attempts of Administration by infusing suspicion into their correspondents in New-York, against the other Colonies, & alarming them with apprehension of irrecoverable loss of their trade. In the mean time, it was artfully insinuated that the american Associations were vain & ineffectual

that was flourishing as usual.

But in spight of their efforts to ~~unravel~~ the real state of trade, complaints would frequently escape them; & the Merchants shewd that concern & anxiety in their faces, which conceal'd lie keep constantly impress'd. In both the Non-importation agreement began to have a very serious operation, & had it been preserved universally inviolable, have not the least doubt, not fact by the next Session of Parliament, it would have had every effect we could wish. There is no speculative point, in which I am more clear, than that England cannot & will not bear one years entire interruption of her commerce. The anxiety with which our enemies beheld the progress of the Associations, the endeavours they have used to render them abortive, & their triumph on their success in New-York is sufficient to demonstrate to us, that they regard it as a most effectual measure, & therefore dangerous to their interest. On our side, their present joy too is founded, not so much on the real ~~influence~~ benefit which the treachery of New York will afford them, as on the sanguine hope it furnishes that all the Colonies will soon succeed. The one is indeed, all is not gained; & they well know, that the greater part of the American Merchants will still be detached by the parsimony of the rest of the Colonies.

It depends on you, my Countrymen to convince them their expectations are ill founded. That you will not weakly give up a measure, which you have wisely adopted. That you will not gratify your foes & mortify your friends; but preferring liberty, with some hardships, to certain slavery, with present ease & emolument, you will preserve inviolably your Associations against the importation of british manufactures. If you are so determined, as confiding in your virtue, I do not doubt you will be, I shall regard the defection of New York as more to be lamented than I should the accession of the whole American faith, than for the injury it will do the sacred cause for which we are contending. The evil is yet reparable; the greater vigilance, activity & virtue of the rest will, more than compensate for the, treachery of one Colony.

There has been an argument used here, against adhering strictly to the Association, which may possibly have reached you; & which for its subtlety, deserves an answer. Our plausible & pretended friends say, as Parliament has manifested a conciliating disposition, & ~~has~~ made half way. ~~Act; let us advance~~ abating part of the obnoxious temper, by retracting & shew the same placable actions against those we do

such a duty as not laid. I will not trouble you with their
reasonings in support of this address; It turns upon one
plain question, has Parliament advanced to meet us?
What then was our grievance; not that we were to pay a
shilling duty on a ream of Paper, but that the principle
by which that shilling was demanded, would trip us of
every shilling we possess. Has this principle been
retracted by Parliament, has there appeared the least
disposition to mitigate or retract it; is it not on the contrary
notorious that the avowed & declared intention in Parliament
for not repealing that Act, was to preserve this principle?
Shall we then meet them upon these terms, shall we bow
before them, & humbly receive one Shilling, which having
unjustly wrested from us, they are graciously pleased to
restore, on condition we acquiesce in their unmerited au-
thority to give & grant every shilling of our property, as
as their arbitrary will? They have met us indeed, but how?
with the Sword drawn, instead of being sheathed. The Act is no
longer concealed under the distinction of external taxation,
but it is declared to establish their right of taxing us in
all cases whatsoever. "It is our last Act, it must not be given
up, Concessions must be at our feet;" this was the Lan-
guage in Parliament, this the conciliating disposition
of the present Minister. But further - have the estab-
lishment of Commissioners been abolished, or their enormous
reactionary powers been reduced within the due limits of the Con-
stitution; have the Admiralty Courts been removed or
their tyrannous jurisdiction been restrained; have the
British Cruisers against american trade, been recalled?
No - every grievance stands unredressed, & to manifest
to us, beyond a doubt, how concealating their intentions
are, Capt Gambier, the most notorious man in all the
British navy for a cruel & arbitrary spirit, is put at the
head of the fleet in America.

With all these glaring facts before you can you be deluded,
can you be overpowered, with the promises of Administration?
Will you give up your dearest birthright, for less than
mess of pottage? Your bane & antidote are both before
you; resist to preserve & be exalted, or submit to groan
as free. It is my duty to warn you of your danger, & I do
assure, that so strongly is the resolution fixed to oppress you,
that the moment it is determined to remove the grievan-
ces of which America complains, that moment will
my Lord Hillsborough resign. I speak what I know, and
leave you to judge what hopes you can place in the inten-
tions of Administration, when it is this noble Lord's
fixed resolution to resign rather than to see our
Complaints relieved.

so pained if you will submit; if after your loving declard friends
shall, that the late system of government must absolutely
enslave you, it shou'd be determin'd to acquiesce under it,
without one manly struggle; your friends must sit down, &
lament in silence the calamities they have in vain tried to avert. But I will rather hope, that impressed
with the true spirit of the sacred cause you are engaged in,
you will act becoming the dignity of insulted free
men, roused to vindicate their dearest rights. That
or bring your friends to the lowest degree of humiliation
you will not give your enemies their wish, that
you will not, in the day of trial, desert your own cause,
& tamely or basely endure to be the slaves of the present
& the contempt of future times. That at all hazards, you
will never forget, That the protection of the constitutional
liberty of America, is a duty which you owe to yourselves
to enjoy it; to your Ancestors, who transmitted it down;
to your posterity, who will claim at your hands, this
the best birthright & noblest inheritance of Mankind.
Nothing but a want of wisdom & of fortitude can expose
you to be defeated in the present contest. Remember
that in a cause like this, to be weak is to be mis-
erable, That a People, continually [illegible] without wisdom will never
be without woe.

Remember

Remember, O my friends, the Laws, the Rights,
The gen'rous Plan of power deliver'd down
From age to age, by our renown'd Fore fathers;
O let it never perish in your hands,
But piously transmit it, to your Children!

Monitor

R Hey

May it please your most excellent Majesty

31

Graciously to permit your
dutiful Subjects the Representatives of your Loyal
People in North America to approach the Throne and
humbly to entreat the royal attention to those Grievances,
which have for ten years past, with increasing violence
threatned danger and ruin to Antient Constitutional
Rights, which your Majesties faithful American
Subjects in this western world have long enjoyed
under your Majesties royal Progenetors. The history
of these Colonies, may it please your Majesty, is one continued
proof of unshaken loyalty to their Sovereigns, of unremitting zeal
for the glory and prosperity of Great Britain, to which, their
active labors have much contributed. No rebellions, nor
traiterous disaffections have ever disgraced their story, or
disturbed the repose of the Mother Country. These truths
may sufficiently prove to your Majesty, that nothing
less than imminent danger and most oppressive grie-
vances could now move a numerous people of such
steady and persevering Loyalty. Such, may it please your
Majesty, are certain Acts of your British Parliament passed
in the 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th years of your Majesties reign,
which destroy every idea of property in your Majesties American
dominions, and in many cases deprive the Subject of his
antient, equitable, and legal trial by Jury, and unnecessarily
endanger his life, by ordaining its trial in far distant Courts,
where want of evidence and assistance of friends may conspire
to destroy the most innocent of your Majesties subjects. We
say unnecessarily may it please your Majesty, because your
Majesties Courts, with competent Laws, are here open to
the punishment of all Offenders who shall dare to commit
Treason, or disturb the quiet of Society. It is not to be
wondered, may it please your Majesty, that apprehensions

of distress and danger do greatly disturb your people in North America, when they see such unexampled extensive and oppressions fixed by military force on many thousands of your Majesties brave and loyal people of the Massachusetts Bay, without their ever having been called upon to answer, or heard in their defence, repugnant, as they have thought, to the practise of the just in all ages. Added to these most alarming proceedings, we have the misfortune Great Sir, to see an arbitrary government and the Roman Catholic religion established in Canada, now so extended along the borders of the Colonies, as to comprehend the greater part of North America; a Religion equally destructive of the independency of Princes and the Civil and Religious liberties of Mankind, so fatally fixed on the ruin of Protestants, that the Laws of England have, since the Reformation carefully guarded against its admission into the British dominions. Sensible, may it please your Majesty, that the greatness and glory of the Sovereign are best supported by the freedom and happiness of his people, and devoted as your Majesties faithful American Subjects are to the Protestant succession in the House of Brunswick, and most earnestly wishing to preserve in its greatest purity the excellent Constitution of England as settled at the Revolution, they feel with the deepest affliction that their happiness and security can never exist with those violent and unconstitutional Councils which are ever ready to be suggested by Tory Counsellors whether in or out of places, Men, whose principles of Government, however artfully concealed, are at fatal enmity with Revolution principles and the Hanovenian succession. May we be permitted Most gracious Sovereign to assure your Majesty that no machinations of such Men, or any other of your Majesties Enemies shall ever succeed, if they can be prevented by the fullest exertion of the Lives and fortunes

of your Majesties loyal and affectionate Subjects in North America. Unpractised in Courts and unused to dissemble, we most humbly pray your Majesty to pardon the freedom with which duty and loyalty to our Sovereign compels us to declare that our apprehensions of danger can never cease so long as the unwise and destructive Councils of the Lords Bute, Mansfield, and North are suffered to approach the Throne

The grievances of your Majesties faithful American Subjects, are with great humility presented, we hope, for the favorable attention of our Sovereign, the Father of all his People.

Draught of
Petition to The King.

America cant defend herself
how would she defend Britain
if any Enemy came there

Not considered before made

Do not Question on my own Language
Ministry have no business with Foreign
than Invasion
Where so much danger expected from
Petition — Constitutional

My Lord Coke 3 Inst. 26 speaking of 1 & 2 Phil & Mar. cap. 10 says it extends only to tryals by the Vend. of 12 Men de vicineto, of the place where the Offence is alledged, & the Indictment is no part of the tryal, but an Information & Declaration for the King, & the Evidence of Witnesses to the Jury is no part of the tryal, for by Law the tryal in that Case is not by Witnesses but by the Vend. of 12 Men, so a manifest diversity between the Evidence to a Jury and a tryal by Jury. And the word (Awarded) in that statute doth prove that that Act extended only to the venire facias for tryal, for neither the Indictm. nor the Evidence can be said to be awarded:

The tryal of Alien by Common Law & not by mixt tales de jurez 27.

All Statutes before 1 & 2 P. M. for tryal of high treasons are abrogated by 1 & 2 tryal, by the due Course of common Law restored

Offenders out of the realm indictable where & how 4 Inst. 26 b. Ireland within the Statute

It is said a Treason committed in Ireland by an Irish man is triable in England under the 35 H 8 cap 2. for Ireland being out of the Realm of England a Treason committed in it is certainly within the Letter of it & nothing for enlarging the Jurisdiction & supplying the Defects of the common Law shall easibly be construed out of the meaning of it. Hawk. 25. Sect 40 Raw I say the Jurisdiction to enlarge the Jurisdiction of the Courts is dangerous to Liberty & the Defect if there is an acknowledged alteration of the Common Law this is repealed by 1 & 2 P & M. But he goes on & says an Irish Peer cannot be tried in England for what reason, only because he is entitled to a tryal by his Peers — I would ask by what Law? by the Law of Ireland — so is the common Man by same Law & I dont find any exception made as to that in the Statute besides a Peer in Ireland is only a common Man in England — this Distinction shews the absurdity of this forced construction on the Statute

A Scotch Nobleman or Irish not a Lord of Parliament to be tried by Knights 3 Inst. 30. Sect. 19.

Notes of Statute
Men & for
Trying
Treason

1776

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The following document is almost certainly misdated. From internal evidence it would seem to refer to the attempt of traders at Falmouth, across Rappahannock from Fredericksburg, to form their own local committee to enforce the Continental Association of 1774.

My opinion is that the Eleventh article of the Address can consistently with the spirit and evident intention, be confined only to Corporate Towns or large and numerous Collections of Men, but by no means to small knots or Collections of interested Traders whose immediate benefit tends to the ~~subversion~~ progress and success of that very Commerce ~~also~~ on the temporary suspension of which the political salvation of America depends. I am very certain that the inserting of the word Town was intended only for the Northern very populous large Towns in the North and the few considerable ones that are to be met with in ~~the Southern~~ Provinces. But when a Committee has already been chosen for the County of Prince George by the Freeholders of the full and fair and sufficient notice it is surely subversive of every idea of property that a small Village like Falmouth should presume to have a ~~private~~ Committee of their own private and partial election whose

determinations

10

in a variety of Cases may differ from those of the great Committee of the County to the introduction of endless confusion and to the utter destruction of the Association. According to the interpretation of this Article of the Association (and of these sheriffs the great Numbers) by every trifling Village in Virginea will not the same right of appointing its own seperate Committee, and as in these Villages the foreign Traders are generally collected, they will be generally Judges in their own Causes and Superintendents of their own Conduct. How this can properly consist with an Association intended to put disinterested persons and Strangers over the Conduct of interested or designing Men the reasonable part of Mankind may judge. I should think that it will be wise in the Committee for the County of King George to constitute their Superintendants of Falmouth, and as a Trading place that their attention to it should be particularly exact.

Richd Henry Lee

R. H. Lees
opinion for the
Committee of
King George
County

9 Men

10/
36
1440
276
90
101

Dear Sir/ Annap.

(No 10 ½)

I received your favor which I made my be
to communicate to my acquaintance who all agreed
proposal. It would give me the highest satisfact
tinue a correspondence with you. Our Town was
a few days ago to consider of letters sent from Bos
ladelphia. The subject of the Boston letter was to
the Colonies to join in a non-importation & export
Scheme as the readiest method to compel the Parli
to restore them to their just rights. The Philadelp.
were very cool indeed upon the application; There is a
stroke of insulting piety in their answers, which I am
sure will raise your indignation, to the highest pitch. We
came to the following resolves

1st That it is the opinion of this meeting that the town
of Boston is now suffering in the common cause of America
liberty.

2d That the best method to redress the evils they now labour
der would be to put a total stop to import. & export to & fro
G. Britain

3d That the association be upon oath for that purpose

4th That it is the opinion of this meeting that no lawyers
bring an action for any Merchant in Great Britain against a
Inhabitant, till this act be repealed.

Revolutions. (Recorded) no date
Co 1074 D. Dulany
obligatory till they are agreed to by the Majority
Provinces, & the several counties in this Province. Every thing
is immediately except the 4th Resolve, wch I confess I oppose
for more. It seems to me to carry so much injustice & partia-
lity. I am afraid it will give an handle to our Enemies & hurt
the cause. I would have agreed to it if it had extended to Mer-
chants of this country, as well as foreign Merchants. Every just,
& every violent measure should be taken against the Bri-
tish Parliament in their design to tax America, for I am con-
vinced once the principle of taxing was established, property
would be worth holding. But at the same time let us never give
an opportunity, by our resolves to accuse us of injustice.
Hope you will agree with me in this.

It gives me great pleasure to hear that our friend Allegre
proceeded so well in the 4th pr[ticular] cause. I have expected to hear
from him for some time past upon some business wch I requested
his management of, but have not had that pleasure. Present
my compliments to him & inform him that I shd be glad of a
line from him. Remember me to yr Brothers. I am with
great esteem

Dr Sir Your most Humble Servant

D. Dulany Junr

attorney at Law

P.S. Please to observe the direction I sign, or else yr Letter
may get into the hands of a Relation of mine of the same name
with myself.

No date (No 66) (1774?)

— They are too expressive to require any Comment; they are written in Blood, and cannot be misunderstood — It is true, they aim at one Colony only, but this Artifice, surely, cannot deceive you, nor withhold you from considering every Colony as interested in the suffering of one for a common Cause.

Divide, and Tyrannize, is the Maxim; to subdue one at a time, is the surest, and most facile way to crush all. —

With such pregnant Proofs before you, of a permanent & compleat subversion of your Liberties, you cannot, without infatuation, listen to those who would persuade you, that if you demean yourselves into acquiescence, and quiet, this oppressive Duty-Act will be repealed, and every grievance redressed.

But, to be convinced how futile this expectation is, look only, upon the Despotic Circle, with which they have, already, encompassed our Liberties. — The Parliament, are to raise a Revenue upon us, without our Consent; the Commissioners, are to see it collected; the Admiralty Courts, are to try all Revenue Causes; — whomsoever, a Governor shall accuse of Treason, is to be sent to Britain for his Trial, or, rather, as His Majesty's most gracious Answer has it, "to be brought to Condign punishment"; — the Governor's Counsellors, and Judges, are appointed by the King, and exist during his Pleasure; — and, to render them all as vigorous, as possible, in the collection of the Revenue, they are to be paid out of the Money thus raised upon us, without our consent, or participation.

From the same Fund too, is a Military, and Naval Force, to be maintained, to enforce obedience to this Tremendous System of abject Slavery. — Never, was a Plan of Despotism more absolute, and in itself complete; never were Chains better forged; and, should our acquiescence suffer them to be rivetted, we are undone forever.

Is the giving our own Money to the Crown, a dear and valuable right? — We are totally deprived of it by the British Parliament, over which, we have no earthly restraint, with which, no possible connection. — Is Trial by Jury an essential Privilege of Freemen, necessary to due dispensation of Justice, and the Security of the Subject? — This is absolutely wrested from us by the Admiralty Courts; in which, one Judge, appointed by the Crown during pleasure, and paid out of the condemnation money, if it be sufficient, determines between the King & the Subject. — Every Governor, may devote whom he pleases, by charging him with Treason, and sending him to England, where he will be tried, if happily, this Farce be deemed necessary to precede the Tragedy of execution, by a Jury of Strangers, infected with the most violent prejudice. — The Commissioners of the Customs, only, are vested with the alarming Powers of Excise, in forcing open, or, ordering to be forced, any Locks, Mans,

Deprived thus, of the privilege of giving, or keeping, our money, the Executive and Judicial Powers as independent of the People, as they are absolutely dependent on the King; — the Trial by jury, that great bulwark of safety in life & Estate, taken from us; — our houses, closets, Cabinets, & laid open to the will & pleasure of the Commissioners, or, the lowest Servant belong-

=ing to the Revenue; and, all these maintained by us without our con=
=sent, what remains to make our Slavery complete? — Nothing,
but our acquiescence and submission. — What can save us from
this dreadful bondage? — Nothing, but an Unanimous, deter=
=mined, permanent Opposition.

How, this is to be conducted, is the next question, and, it may be
very shortly discussed. We have petitioned, reasoned, and remon=
strated, in vain; but let us try the next gentle method of admon=
=ishing Great Britain, and recalling her to Reason & Justice; that
is, to desist from the Consumption of her Manufactures, and
supplying her with those Raw Materials, from which her Trade
Manufactures, Merchants, and Revenue, receive great profits;
such as Tobacco, Tar, Pitch, Hemp, Flax-seed, Pot-ash &c.

Instead of expending our labor on these, let us raise grain,
Provisions, and all Materials for Manufactures, in the manu=
=facturing of which, the rest of our labor may be employd.

Some temporary loss and inconvenience will arrise from so great
a change, but, the benefits, which will flow from it, are mani=
=fold great, and lasting: — It will save us from a Slavery, other=
=wise inevitable; the Yoke is before us, the Chains are prepared,
there is no alternative, but tamely to put them on, or vigorously
endeavor to make them drop from the enervated Hand of our
Oppressors. — He, who would expose himself, and his Posterity, to
the hateful Insults of petty Authority; he, who would devote his
life and fortunes to the arbitrary Will of Governors, Commission=
=ers, Judges, Custom-House Officers, Minions, & Parasites, — he,
who would see the whole People of this Continent governed, with=

(No 66) (A. Fragment by F. L. Lee.) (Copy)
Original sent to R. H. Lee Jr. by his request.

out exception, by laws, to which they give no consent, and, their once honorable, and respectable Assemblies humiliated to mere Corporations; let him patiently resign himself to the Shackles which are forged for him, and wonderfully calculated to secure these fatal consequences. — But, when the galling Chains sits heavy on him; when the Calamities, of which Slavery is baneful prolific, prest hard upon him; — in that miserable State, fleeced, despised, injured, and insulted, let him persevere in his virtue of Resignation, nn be tempted to execrate his miserable Existence, or accellerate in wish, the Slave's and Wretch's last Resource, the Hand of death.

To render Opposition effectual, Unanimity is greatly requisite. How necessary, an Union and Harmony among ourselves are, to the maintenance of our most valuable Rights, may be known, not only from Reason, but from the great apprehension entertained of it, by those who would subvert them.

It was, therefore, that the Congress at New-York, was so loudly exclaimed against by the Grenville Party, and that the Circular Letter at Boston, was such an alarming measures at home, that every art of soothing, every influence of Bribe were used by my Lord Hillsborough to render it abortive

In pursuance of the Old Maxim, Divide & Tyrannize, this artful Minion is industriously propagating an Opinion, that, but for such steps as those taken in America, We should certainly have had the late Duty-Act repealed; and, this, at the very time, the Ministry are declaring in Parliament, it was intended to fix the Dominion of Parliament over America, & therefore to be enforced, if questioned; & every

see margin.

Measure

they take, tends to evince the fatal Truth of this declaration. — Be assured, then, my Countrymen, and I speak to you from the best information, we have every thing to fear from Great Britain; nothing to expect but insult, injury & Oppression; and from these, nothing can relieve us, but a determined, Unanimous & persevering Opposition.

~~Coobled~~ may consultationally unite in
supplications to the throne for removal of real
grievances

(1)

III Resolved That an humble address be
presented to his Majesty the ~~common~~ gracious Father
of all his People, entreating his royal
protection of the just and long enjoyed
rights of his faithful and loyal subjects
of Virginia, and that he will be graciously
pleased to discourage every attempt
by which the lives of his faithful people
in ~~Virginia~~ America may be endangered by
new modes of Royal prerogative to the

wise and ~~mild~~ just principles of the common laws, and deserving as widely from the wisdom and ~~mild~~ goodness that have eminently distinguished the government of his Majesty and his royal predecessors of the Brunswick line.

(2) Resolved that the Speaker do transmit with all speed and delay to the Speaker of every Assembly on the Continent of N. America a copy of the resolves now come together with a copy of the address to his Majesty to be laid before their respective houses of Assembly and in the name of this house requesting their union with us in humble and dutiful

Applications to the Crown
for redress of American
grievances

(3)

Dec.r 16. 1768 incloses protes
wishes to repeal offensive Acts, tra
says not a word of imputation
proceed from A
Colonies — Compare this with h
Memorial when he mentioned
insincerity is strongly to be im
Resolves &c as a Motive to
gave an opportunity of ha
waiting for the Printed votes
condemning the invitation
redress of Grievances — Dec.r
of Virginia Memorial —
of the Commons in the Resol
consider what comes from any

e Lords – Mentions Hillsborough
fraudes it being then done
ministration asserting the other
Lordships treatment of your
ied it to the Lords, ~~by~~ which his
inferred – says he cannot the
to the Lords, that their engagem.
transcribing these, and not
ter – Observe on the Resolve
in to join in humble petitions for
Nº 12 – Hillsborough's report
123. Assures the concurrence
Colonies, and says they will not
ny of the Colony –

(5)

No 2

Resolution for an Address
to The King
against Foreign Trials
=

[illegible] that the Sovereign [illegible] in the force of a proclamation. Tomkins
[illegible] Lodowick Rice [illegible]
[illegible] failed to record all the acts of the Court. Hume
Vol. P. 470. [illegible] Elizabeth — 31st Henry 8
Chap. 8. Gives proclamations the force of Statute
enacted by Parliament — See Hume Hist. 4 Vol
P. 213. 214 — Ibid. 262 263 Obtains an act to
authorise his dispositions of the Crown or he please
Another 35 Hen 8. Chap 12 to remit the debts he had contracted
by borrowing money upon pledge to make those who
had been paid refund — 35 Hen. 8 Ch. 1. ordains
that those who took the first ecclesiastical oath,
should be supposed to have taken the second,
although they never had taken the second — so
the people were bound by oath they have not
consented to — Ibid 263 — 37th Henry 8
in preamble recognises the King to have been
supply by the word of God supreme head of the
[illegible] interposition of Clergy or Parliament
proclamations not only to have the
force authority of Revelation not only
[illegible] direct the
manners actions but to [illegible] Ibid. P. 273.
rewards punishments and sentences
Elizabeth commands Strickland not to attend the
House of Commons because he
[illegible] disagreeable to her Ibid
her Parliament ought to meddle
[illegible] — Parliament
[illegible] or examine in Parliament Ibid P. 188.
Vin. Abridgment Page 180 — Vol. T. U.
35th of Henry 8th adjudged not repealed by 1 & 2 Ph. & Mary
or 1st Edw. 6 — Coke Inst.
Elizabeth & Charles but in no other reign — Note
arbitrary reigns when prerogative [illegible] Judges
being during pleasure [illegible] (not law) but the
pleasure of Court — [illegible] Supra — Observe
[illegible] the bad consequences
expressly repeal in [illegible]

[illegible] hereafter [illegible] do for any Treason
[illegible] d as according to the due course of the common
[illegible] Realm and not otherwise - See Bevers Abr.
[illegible] 101. Vol. I. U.

(Assumpsit)
Same Defendt. pleads in the Co. of Surrey
Plaintiff replies in Middlesex.
& thus came the Issue.

Quousque tandem Catilina patientia abutere nostra?

To what extremity of abuse is the patience of a free and loyal people to be driven? May the oppressed Inhabitants of Massachusetts Bay exclaim with the Roman Orator. If there be any who doubt that the brains of some people are disposed to giddiness by sudden elevation to high power, or if any person questions that the Governor of Massachusetts Bay, is, or conceives himself to be, a Tyrant of that Country, let such Doubters read the curious proclamation hereto subjoined, which appears in the Northern papers. Be it premised, as a fact admitting not of doubt with all sober persons, that every free Subject of Great Britain has an absolute right to refuse buying from, or selling to, any person or persons whatsoever. If it be so, let his Governor produce his law, let it be shewn in what Code Obligatory on British subjects it is ordained, that such refusal is criminal. The severe and unexampled Orgies with which this devoted Province has been already afflicted, falls far short of this amazing spontaneous effusion of their Beshaws mind! Surely this Governor does not know the meaning of those important words Traiterous and Allegiance which he thunders out with such dreadful denunciation. By your favor Mr. Printer let him be informed (for perhaps he reads Newspapers tho law may never be his study) that Treason, in its comprehensive sense, is the highest crime, and has annexed to it the heaviest punishment known to the law; & that Allegiance is no more than the Legal obedience that every subject owes to his Sovereign. But there being no law making the refusal to buy

or sell Treasonable, and no legal Obedience to the Sovereign demanding any such absurdity as that a Man must trade whether he chooses it or not. How wild and unwarrantable was it, to proclaim that persons agreeing not to buy or sell may be considered as "declared and open enemies of the King, parliament, and kingdom of Great Britain," and cautioning them to avoid entering into such "unlawful, hostile, and traiterous combinations, as they would avoid "the pains and penalties due to such aggravated and dangerous offences". And to consummate all, the Magistrates and Officers are "commanded to take effectual care to apprehend and secure for trial, all and every person who may hereafter presume to publish, or offer to "others to be signed, or shall themselves sign" what? An instrument of writing wherein the Signers agree not to buy or sell to or from Great Britain. Credite Posteri, that the Governor of Massachusetts Bay proclaimed many thousand people, Traitors for refusing to be Traders! But this Governor was but newly acquainted with the duties of the civil sceptre as with those of the Military Truncheon, he will discover the deep guilt of thus abusing multitudes of People, for the innocent exercise of "rights" essential to human nature

Article for Rind's Gazette
On the Proclamation of the
Govr. of Massachusetts

(2)

It is very certain, that passive obedience, whether practised thro a principle of Religion, or thro fear of punishment, stifles the cry of the miserable, but far from bettering their condition, it is an help evident, that it delivers them up, but so much the more to injustice, because it stops their complaints or renders them useless against prejudice alone tho the abuse of authority did not interfere.
This is proved in the two signal events of the expulsion of the Moors by Phil. 3 of Spain in 1615. & the revocation of the Edict of Nantes Boulenvilliers Hist. of France. Lett. 14.
The Emperor Marcus Aurelius says it down as a maxim That the people cannot be happy, but when Kings are philosophers or Philosophers Kings.

(№14)

Dangers of Passive Obedience

A Fragment, by A Lee

Ed. Jan. 5. 1775.

Dear Sir,

Mrs Macauly was so obliging as to send me accounts of your health some time ago in answer to Enquiries I had made about my old & very much respected Acquaintance.

Your Steady Adherence to the good old Cause to which you was devoted in the youthfull season of Life when I saw you last at London, gives me great Satisfaction. Its true Friends are but a little Flock, & a Shepherd much wanted, Corruption has pervaded the Minutest ramifications of the political System; & the Wisest & best of Men are afraid to take the Lead.

I have of a long time had views towards
becoming a Vassal of my Kinsman Fairfax
on the Banks of the Potowomack,
I should be much obliged to you for informations
relating to his Unsettled Tracts, & the circumstances
as to be Attended to in Such Speculations.
I have made many Enquiries, but would wish
to have your opinion on this head — & in
case I come to any formd resolution to be
my Entrepot of correspondence with my Friends
in that country and My Kinsman in parti[illegible]
I am, Dear Sir,
Your obliged
Humble Servt
B Harrison.

The celebrated Earl of
Buchan — who made G.
Washington a present of a Snuff Box
made of the wood of the tree, in which
Sir W.m Wallace took refuge —.

Lord
Buchan

To
Doctor Arthur Lee
at
London.

Free
Hon.ble Richard Henry Lee
Member Congress Virginia

Col. Francis Lightfoot Lee

My Dear Brother.

London 13 Jan. 1775.

Having never rec.d a line from you since Augst. dated at Urbanna I sh.d have been a good deal alarmed on acct. of y.r health had not our mutual friend Mr Gilborne frequently mentioned you in his let.rs.

I have wrote you pretty fully on business by the Adventure Ca[illegible]on, who has been unfortunately detained a great [illegible]le down by contrary winds I have not mu[illegible] to add [illegible] M. Chauntleroys bill to M. Page Jun. is.o the sum is above £100. therefore with propriety you may urge him to ship largely. I have not rec.d one Shilling from Chauntleroy at Greensspring, nor a letter except 3 or 4 lines in Jan. 74 since he went on the Estate —. The Tob.o is this year in much worse condition than ever it was & will not sell for so much as it w.d have done by fair ptk, if it had been put up neatly & free from sand & dirt, as it used to be. It w.d have been some satisfaction had I known what plan has been that of to support the Negroes in cloathing this great year & how I am to get any thing from it for my own support. We have a report from Glasgow that L.d Dunmore is dead; sh.d he not, I hope the Gun ably when it meets will roast him well for his many vile & infamous governmental acts. The Merch.ts & Traders in London, have agreed on a Petition to Parliam.t for redress of American Commerce — I was one of the Com.e for drawing it up & one for presenting & managing it — therefore have had full op.ty of knowing, there is nothing very serious in this busi-

sincerely, therefore do not expect any great good from it, for really nothing can save the good people here till they feel, which is not the case at present, but will be woefully so, in 12 Mos

You must persevere in the plan adopted by the Congress leave it to work there, My political sentiments are fully conveyed to R. H. L. by this opty which you will know.

Jan. 14. I now inclose Acct Sales for 9 P. & Hhds ff Brown, nett proceeds £55. 6. 8 to 9 Ct. which am sure you will approve of since by keeping them so long I got at last 20 s. ff ℔ more than if they had been sold when the Eliza arrived. Tobo is now just beginning to rise much, when unfortunately ma[ny] [mine]rigane particularly that ff Roman for which the [call be]sent as soon as Jean mat. them out. Pray [for] way quick ly, or else my Rapk Ship will be with you at the same time he has been unfortunately detained so long in the downs. The first week in March a ship will sail for the Rapk Tobo that Brown leaves who will load either in that river or York. S. Hopkins has just remitted M. Page Junr bill on myself, to Hyde Manr & Co this shows clearly that his not paying, arises more from want of Honesty than ability. Mrs Lee is not well, expecting every day to be in the Straw, however she joins me in affect Love to you your Dear Sister. I am most Sincerely Yours.

William Lee

P.S. Mungo Roy's bill has appeared since my last per[mail]; so is Tho. Edwards's an acct of Mutti Estate. ℔ L.

(No 47)

London 17 Jan. 1775.

In confirmation of what has been wrote to you by this opty, I am now to inform you ~~that~~ from unquestioned authority, that last night, a full Council was held on American measures, at which D.d Bute assisted when it was determined to persevere in every measure oppressive to America. I do not know certainly all their plans but in general I am told, that some of them are foolish to an extreme — time will show what they are. — The ministerial writers have been busy in the City today & the Merch.ts who appeared foremost in petitioning, which they were permitted to do from the Ministry having taken no decided part & were hiring for some body to point out a path for them to get out of the scrape they were in, are now much puzzled how to act — so as to support their credit in America & yet to please their masters here. Rely not on such wretched creatures, but persevere in your own measures; confirm & enlarge the plan of the last Congress & depend on it, 12 Months must produce a revolution here.

Be not surprised if Resolutions in Parliam.t sh.d pass that the people of Massachusetts Bay are in a State of actual Rebellion — They must be supported at every point or you are ruined. — Again I conjure you to be provided to resist Force by Force. Such a contest must terminate in y.r advantage. Farewell.

Read, Seal & forward as soon as possible the inclosed to M.rs Rind.

(No 67)

Wm Lee to R. H. Lee

Jan.y 17th 1775.

(1768)

London 20. Jan. 1775. —
9 o/c at Night.

This minute from the H. of Lords.

This day the Lords met according to adjournment from the Xmas holidays. at 3 o/c. The American papers were laid before the H. without any message from the K. amongst them the Congress Petition to the K. the Resolutions & proceedings of Congress with sundrie other papers. The Ld [illegible] [illegible] Chatham got up & spoke for [illegible] in an oration in a manner long, & whoever had the happyness of hearing him in public before, he moved that an address might be presented to the K. to remove the troops from Massachusetts bay, as an earnest to America that some conciliating plan was about to be adopted here. (remember I speak from memory after 6 hours standing in an immense crowd without any refreshment but that of the mind, however it appears of infinite importance that you should have some idea of the debate as soon as possible) The Ld. said, tomorrow morning he said if the H. adopted his motion he had a plan to propose which he was sure would secure the dignity & supremacy of the Country & at the same time be perfectly satisfactory; his plan in short is to disavow the right of taxation explicitly on the part of G. B. & on the part of Am. acknowlege the supremacy of Parliam., restrain Navigation ____ In the course of his speech, he says, "my L. I have read Thucidides, & am somewhat acquainted with the history of the Grecian & Roman States, & I will be bold to say, that in their most brilliant periods, they will loose by a comparison with the strength of Argument, temper, elegance of Composition & deliberate firmness in the cause of Liberty, in the proceedings of the Congress at Philadelphia". He more than once in his inimitable manner declared that America [illegible] the insults [illegible] laws the

(1778)

Wm Lee
Jan 20th 1775

...ain for its government, which it carried into execution, ...
introduced despotism there, & finally into this country. How also
America had been greatly traduced & vilified by the
...ted artifices of a puerile, sleeping & abandoned ad-
ministration. Says he, "If there is any of the H. Ministers
shall advise a perseverance in these iniquitous measures, —
what shall I say? ____ I must not say that the H. ...
tray'd ____ but I will say, that this Country is ____
...ous. ____ If the whole Indictment ...
...tisfaction ...
...warm in the cause of general liberty as well as ...
America ____ It is observed that there were 3,000,000 of
...Americans who would not submit to despotic government,
...the people, every Whig in this kingdom, the million
...d not mention, the very man in Ireland; with a
...nch & Spanish War hanging over our heads, what must
...the fate of this devoted Kingdom if the present ...
...trary American System was persevered in, the first very
Lord to judge. ____ This motion & speech drew from Ld Suffolk
a pretty explicit declaration (Ld Suffolk is one of the Secretaries
of State) that Ministry had formed a plan, which in due time
...be opened by the N. Lord in whose department it was, but he
...go so far as to say, that it was not, to recede, but to persevere
...& carry into execution by force all the late Acts of Parliament.
...founded his hopes of success, that the several Colonies
...already disgusted at the proceedings of the late Congress
...not adhere to them ____ He gave the H. to understand that
...art of the plan was to encrease the Military in Boston,
...stroy that Town by bombardment & to send Troops to
...lony to support the Friends of Government, as they are
...shionably called, who conspire to destroy the Liberties of
...ir Country; viz. the Hutchinsons, Oliverals, & Van
...Delanceys &c. ____ Ld Littleton, of late memory, abused Americans
...in dirty terms well befitting such a demon as he is
...deed & to mention, but at the same time

1775

London 20. Jan. 1775
9 oc. at Night

This minute from The H. of Lords

This day the Lords met according to adjournment from the Xmass holidays at 3 oc. The American papers were lay['d] before the H. without any message from the K. Among them [was] the Congress Petition to ye K., the Resolutions, & proceedings of Congress with sundrie other papers. The [illegible, torn] got up & speaking for [torn], in an astonishing manner to me, who never had the happiness of hearing [torn] in public before, he moved that an address sh^{d} be pres[ented to] the K. to remove the troops f[rom] Massachusetts bay, as an [torn] to America that some conciliating [policy] was about to be adopted here. (remember I speak from memory after 6 hours standing in an immense crowd without any ref[resh]ment but that of the mind, however it appears [of in]finite importance that you sh^{d} have some idea of the [de]bate as soon as possible & the ship sails tomorrow morning.) he said if the H. adopted his motion he had a plan to propose which he was sure w^{d} secure the dignity & supremacy of the Country & at the same time be perfectly satisfactory to [torn] his plan in short is to disavow the right of taxation explicitly on the part of G.B. & on the part of Am[torn] acknowledge the supremacy of Parliam^{t} resp[ecting] [torn] Navagation - In the course of his speech, he sayed, "My [torn] have read Thucidides, & am somewhat acquainted with the [torn] of the Grecian & Roman States, & I will be bold to say, that [torn] their most brilliant periods, they will loose by comparison with the strength of Argument, temper, elegance of Compo[si]tion & deliberate firmness in the cause of Liberty, in the [pro]ceedings of the Congress at Philadelphia." He more [torn] once in his inimitable manner declared that America [torn] Laws [torn] for its government, which if carried into execution must produce <u>despotism</u> there, & finally into this Country. He also [illegible] America had been greatly <u>traduced</u> & <u>vilified</u> by the [wi]cked artifices of a <u>puerile</u>, <u>sleeping</u>, & abandoned [ad]ministration. Says he, "If there is any of the K. Ministers shall advise a perseverance in these iniquitous measures, what shall I say? - I must not say that the K. is [<u>be</u>]trayed - but I will say that this Country is - [torn, illegible] On the whole he did not

[illegible] to my satisfaction [torn] warmth in the cause of General liberty as well as [torn] America - He observed that there were 3,000,000 of [torn] America who w.d not sub[mit]to a despotic government, [torn] must be [torn]by every Whig in this Kingdom, the million w.d not mention, & by every man in Ireland; with [a Fre]nch & Spanish War hanging over our heads, what mu[st be] the fate of this devoted Kingdom if the present [arbi]trary American System was pursevered in, he left every Lord to judge. - This motion & speech drew from L.d Suffolk a pretty explicity declaration (L.d Suffolk is one of the Secretarys of State) that Ministry had formed a plan, which in due time [w.d] be opened by the N. Lord in whose department it was, but he [w.d] go so far as to say, that it was not, to recede, but to persevere & carry into execution by force all the late Acts of Parliamn.t [& he] founded his hopes of success on the several Colonies [torn]already disgusted at the proceedings of the late Congress, & w.d not adhere to them - He gave the H. to understand that part of the plan was to increase the Military in Boston [torn] [de]stroy that Town by bombardm.t & to send troops to ev[ery C]olony to support the Friends of Governm.t, as they are [que]stionably called, who conspire to destroy the Liberties [torn]Country; viz. the Hutchinsons, Ingersols, De Lancys &c. - Ld. Littleton spoke next, abused Amer[torn] dirty terms well befitting such a demon as he is [torn] Administration, but yet from [torn] [incomplete]

Feb. 1775

My Dear Col.

A grateful Remembrance of Old Friendship, will I hope apologize for my troubling you so often, without hearing the least Whisper from you since I came in from the Kanawha Expedition.

The important Session of Assembly, big with Matters of great Moment, is now at hand: I wish that a firm & dispassionate Conduct, may shine through the Whole; & all our Passions may be soothed, by agreable Accounts from the New Parliament: I must acknowledge my dread to hear from them — Several Sensible Men lately from England inform us, the People there seem but little affected with our dispute, & that they without Thought or Consideration declare that America ought to be tax'd. (& that Lord North has declared that he has a Rod in Pisse for the Colony of Virginia & province of Maryland — Could I see him in America! in Spite of all the armies & Commissioners, Custom house Officers & Informers, I would make the meanest American I know, piss upon him.)

In these troublesome times, It is absolutely necessary that you keep the men employ'd

in the late Expedition, they have done honour to our Country — The Indians are daily delivering up Prisoners & Horses, & do really stand in awe of us. Unless the men are paid off directly their Certificates, will be sold for a fourth part of their Value, to fresh Clerks & Store keepers, & the brave men who did the Service, be nothing the better of their pay — Appoint Commissioners for below to settle the Accounts — Let no Interested person, or their Connexions be Concerned in the Affair. Send the Squire up again, Tom Mas — shall & Frank Peyton, & as many more as you think proper — By this means the people will have Justice done them, & at the Same time many Thousands will be saved to the Country.

The House must settle what Day they are to get off day; & from What time they are to be paid as they were raised & disbanded Some Considerable time for want of Arms & Ammunition this time was employed in disciplining them for the Service — but without the Considerable Detention of the Troops, the Commissioners, is Ready is matter of Altercation —

With the greatest Oeconomy, matters on this Quarter were managed; but the Expence of Fort Pitt must be kept apart by it self, as I apprehend the reverse of Oeconomy will appear there.

It has no Connexion with the Rest of the Campaign — I would have you discharge that Garrison immediately, but then I desire you may keep my Opinion to yourself.

In renewing the Militia Law, let there be 100 well appointed horse & disciplined in every County — To be Superintended & commanded the Field, & no Enemy can safely show himself out of sight of their Camps. We are immediately apprized of the Strength of their Events, & of every Motion they make, & can Act accordingly. At the Court Martial let a Majority present determine any Matter —

And during an Attack or in Battle let the men be Subject to the Articles of War with what Alleviation the House thinks proper — Until the men who Want fire Arms can be provided, let them be furnished with Spears & Tomahawks — The Iron of the Spear to be Made in Shape of a Triangular Bayonet, only Broader at the Shoulder, to go On the Staff with a large Socket, & thin plates of iron reaching up the Staff about two feet to Steffen it, & guard it against any Cutting Instrument, the plates being part of the Socket — the Spears of the men in front to be six Inches longer than the Muskets with fixed Bayonets those of the Second Rank eighteen inches longer than the Spears in front, & those in the third

Rank

Rank against Swiss twice longer than the Sword, that
three Spears may reach the breast of the Enemy at once
before he can be touched with a fix Bayonet.

This moment I am in, and that the Assembly
is for regular Military Confusion more Confounded.

I press for the encouragement of the Soldiery
that you would put in Provincial Congress, & Order
an Emission of Bills of Credit for their Payment.

I am sorry that Lord Dunmore may depend on it.
the Militia will never obey his orders again. If the
Country has a mind to secure useful men, It is
absolutely necessary to Contrive some method to
pay the Common men. If the Officers & privates
should fall over, let us be firm, & the Gates of
Hell cannot prevail against us.

The handful of men in Canada is Six British
Regiments from France, with Cloth for five years
all the force of British Fleets & Armies from home
& fifteen or twenty Thousand Americans every Campaign. They gained Several Advantages over us, & cleared
Canada Land in their Retreat or Case.

What can we do, if United. We only want a
Treaty to give Law to the World, and we have it in
our Power to get it. I am Dr Sir firmly Yours

Nov 1st 1775 Adam Stephen

Col. Francis Lightfoot Lee

Mr. Dr. Brother

London 10 Feb. 1775

Capt. Mitchell brot me ye two pieces c^d silk handkerchiefs which you shall have credit for & be charged to Jno Mills for one piece. This minute Capt. Danby brot me y^r favor of Nov. 12. with the bill on Davidson & Co. £93. & Hopkins's two bills for which he will have credit.

'Tis strange that Saunderson has not sent me any money before & now only £55 Curr^y at the same time he says, I am to expect little Tob^o & writes for considerable more goods than ever were sent before; he also talks of buying things in the Country, from all this I expect in a year more, the whole produce of the Estate will be kept in his own hands.

Be so good as to let me know what is his Salary & indeavor to get him to send me at least something more than he did last year: He has brot the Noble to nine pence & I fear the 9 pence will soon dwindle to a groat. Mr. Brown has full instructions ab^t the Mercantile debtors which he will no doubt communicate to you & be advised by you in all his proceedings. Should any accident happen to him, either in his passage in my Ship the Adventure Capt. John Brown that sailed from the Downs 6 weeks a month since, or in Virginia his letters will fall into your hands & you will be so good, in that case, to act as if they were addressed to yourself.

I am sure you will use ye utmost Endeavors to get as much Tob.o as possible consigned to me this year & every remittance made that is in your power. Ish.d be well satisfied to get Tob.o or any thing else on reasonable terms from the Treasts, but at all events get every thing you can ~~from~~ shipd as expeditiously as possible for there is no knowing how soon it will enter the heads of our vile ministers to shut up all the American ports, as the New England Ports are to be shut up immediately as Boston is now. I am sure if the trade continues open so long, ~~I am sure~~ as soon as ye Exports to this Country are stopped according to ye association, they will stop ye exports to any other part of the world; & tobo wheat & every other comodity will be sent off as well as Tobo before Sept 10th. —— You have now no alternative left but to resist manfully, unitedly & firmly in defence of ye Liberties, & every thing that is really dear to men, or submit & be the meanest of Slaves, as war is directly declared ag.st Massachusetts Bay & indirectly ag.st all America. As soon as you receive this go directly to Mr. H. Lee, send for Browne if any where near, to meet you both & settle at once the plan of business with him & the plan of Politicks between yourselves. When I find my efforts here cannot be of any use to the common cause, I shall most assuredly come to you instantly, if there is any spirit in America. I will never shrink from danger, in so noble a Contest.

Mrs Lee is getting well the 23d Ult.o she brot me two Boys one is gone, the other very well. God Bless you all, Farewell my Dear Brother. Take the best care you can of my Estate. William Lee

I sent you several packets by the Pitt Capt Gibson, as soon as he arrives you had better send to Mr Pitts for them if they are not come to hand before you receive this. Your affection will prevail with you to forgive all the trouble I have & am about to give you, respecting my Estate & business — Farewell. W. L. you have a Mag. & papers.

(№ 19)

My Dear Brother London 10 Feb. 1775.

You wrote me so frequently while at Philadelphia, tho' y^r letters were long in coming to hand that I can readily excuse y^r not writing lately.

Y^r Boys at St. Bees are well. Sudwell is to be Sponsor for my little Patriot. The 23^d ult^o Mrs Lee brot me two fine Boys, one is gone the other & Mr Lee are well. This makes it necessary to think of Greenhythe where I cannot dissemble so far as to say, things seem to go on so well as I could wish — not quite 40 £ money in the whole year & the Tob^o so badly handled & full of dirt, that it has not brot so much by £3. ₱ ^ct. as it w^d have done if managed as usual — this year Saunderson tells me I am to expect little Tob^o & no money, at the same time talks of buying goods in the Country besides sending a much larger Invoice than was ever before demanded for the Estate, tho' the Negroes have decreased in number since they were divided. All this surely requires some attention, or else in a little time the only use of the Estate will be to support Mrs F. like a Gentleman.

His proceedings are not approved by some near him who I believe wish both me & Mrs Lee very well, however you can judge best & will act accordingly. I am sure both you & my B^r

Londown have already had so much trouble with the Estate that it gives me pain whenever I am obliged to mention any disagreable circumstances, but I think both your goodness and affection will induce you to pardon me. Romans Cargoe has been all sold some time & very well as the prices were then, but lately Tob.o has taken a sudden & great start, so that it is somewhat unlucky, I was induced by the reiterated complaints of Col.o L. Carter & some others ~~+~~ for keeping their tob.o, to sell so soon; however 'tis done & can't now be minded. 'Tis not in my power to send the sales, for since the 4th. of Jan.y I have or a Committee man been every day engaged with the Merch.ts Petitions to y.e two Houses of Parliam.t for redress of American grievances, in so much that I have never got to Bed 'till one o'clock in the morning & frequently not sooner than 3 or 4 o'clock. Mr. Brodrick being gone I cannot trust any body but myself to make them out. Should any of my correspondents complain they will surely put up with the delay when they know the cause, as nothing can be of more importance than what I have been engaged ab.t ——— Tho' the Merch.ts have been unsuccessful in their application to the Lords & Commons, we are now preparing a petition to the Throne if that has no effect, we shall at last appeal to the People at large, who we do not doubt will pay some attention to us.

You have the Mag.: & Papers which will show you our Political Madness & the wickedness of our ministers &c., to them I refer you as well as to those sent by the Jett, Capt. Gibson wh.m you had better send for as soon she arrives at Leeds Town, if they are not come to hand before you receive this.

In all this month I expect my ship the Adventure Capt. John Brown will be with you, as she went from the Downs with a fine wind for some days, abt a month ago; after being detained there a fortnight. In her went Passenger Mr. Edw. Browne to take some of the Burthen of my mercantile business off yr hands this year, he will consult with you on all points & trust you will give him every assistance in yr power. It may be well to send for him if he is any where near & settle the plan of Operations finally with him, as it may be of infinite importance to get what tob.o you can away as soon as possible. Besides the Adventure I shall charter 200 hhds in Potomac for York River & send out another ship of 400 or 500 hhds to Rapt. or wherever else you please she shall lye. Our affect. love to all at Chantilly & am most affect. Yours for ever William Lee

(N°69)

Wm Lee
Feb. 10th 1775

2 Passports Letters via pa.

Col. Richard Henry Lee
Chantilly Potomac
Virginia

1/6

To the King's most Excell.t Majt.

Most gracious Sovereign

We y.r Mj.s most dutiful & loyal Subjects, the Representatives of the Colony of N. Jersey, in Gen.l Assembly convened beg leave to approach y.r royal presence, to express our unfeigned attachm.t to y.r Mj.s person, family & government & to return you our most humble thanks, for y.r gracious assurance signified to us by our Governor — that "the Representations or Propositions of your Colonies will be attended to."

Firmly persuaded of y.r Mj.s solicitude for the happiness of y.r Subjects, in the remotest parts of y.r dominions, from the above gracious assurance, we cannot but encourage ourselves in the prospect of y.r royal interposition for our relief from the Grievances, under which y.r American Subjects have so long laboured.

We do with the greatest sincerity, assure y.r Mty, that our complaints do not arise from a want of loyalty to y.r royal person, or a disposition to withdraw ourselves from a constitutional dependance on the British Crown; but from well grounded apprehensions that our right & liberties are intimately affected by the late measures, in their consequence pernicious to the welfare & happiness both of great Britain & y.r Mj.s Colonies.

The Grievances of which we complain are

Altho' all the Grievances above enumerated do not immediately affect the People of this Colony; yet as in their consequences they will be deeply involved, we cannot remain silent unconcerned. Should our property be liable to the disposal of those our fellow Subjects, in whose election we can have no voice, it is evident that we can have no property, but at their pleasure. And should we be carried for trial to places impossible for the accused to compel the appearance of witnesses, innocence will be no security from punishment.

Nor is the jurisdiction lately given to

the Court of Admiralty, wth deprives yr Mys american Subjects of trials by Juries of the vicinage, tho repugnant to the fundamental principles of the common Law. All wch necessarily tend to reduce us to a state of servitude, which our affection for the present Constitution & duty to ourselves & Posterity loudly call us to avert, by all lawful means in our power.

The Colony of N. J. during the late glorious war, tho not immediately affected, because surrounded by yr Mys other more extensive & opulent Colonies, complyd with every royal requisition for aid, & chearfully exerted itself, at a very considerable expence, whereby it incurred a heavy debt, under a great part of which it at present labours, And as this Colony hath always according to its ability, cordially defrayd the charge of the Administration of Justice, & the support of the civil government, yr Mty may be assured, that it will always be ready not only to defray the same charge, but also to contribute, when constitutionally requested, to every reasonable & necessary expence, for the defence, security & protection of the whole British Empire.

We do solemnly & truly bear true allegiance to yr Mty, & we have no thoughts injurious to the allegiance, which as Subjects owe to you as our Sovereign; but we abhor the idea of setting ourselves up in a state of independency, & that we know of no such design in others.

We therefore most earnestly beseech yr Mty to interpose yr royal authority for redress of the above Grievances, & to vouchsafe us a gracious answer to this our humble Petition.

That the omnipotent Being — by whom Princes reign, & Kings decree justice — & who hath plac'd yr My on the throne of yr Ancestors, to whom they were called by the suffrage of a free People, to protect them against Popery & arbitrary power, may bless you with every felicity, both temporal & eternal; & that the Colonies may live with the most faithful of yr Subjects, in every dutiful & loyal attachment, to yr royal person, family & government, is, & always will be, the sincere & fervent prayer, of yr My's loyal & dutiful Subjects the Representatives of the Colony of N. Jersey in Assembly

Signed by order of the House

Cortland Skea

Feb. 13th 1775.

Read May the 4th 1775

May 17. 1775

Dr Sir,

Sir. I have Opportunity of
forwarding the inclos'd, I put it in my Pocket
& thought I should never trouble you with it;
but I cannot forbear Communicating my
Sentiments upon so alarming an Occasion.

If in the Colony Congress the members
should resolve to acquaint the men em-
-ployd in the last Expedition that they should
be paid; & soon as the general Commotion
are settled, it would keep them in heart-
and indeed it would be highly imprudent
to disgust a Body of such Useful men at
this important Era; for by what I can
hear, It will come to the Shedding of
Blood — Unless Providence interferes in
a very Special Manner. For my part,
before I Would Submit my Life, Liberty, &
property to the Arbitrary disposal of a
Corrupt Venal Aristocracy - The Wanton
& Effeminate Tools of Power - I would Set
my self down w^t a few friends, upon some
Rich & healthy Spot, [illegible] miles to the
Westward

Westward; & that from a Settlement, wch
in a short time would ensue, command
Attention & Respect — I wish you happy & I
have the honour to be with Respect

D. Sr.

your most obt hble Sr

Adam Stephen

Adam Stephen
Letter Feb.y 17th 1775

1775 — Marquis La Fayette
Hon: James Lovell
Sam Chase
& others to D. of L.

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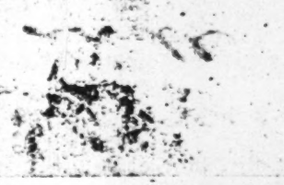
A. To

Col. Richard Henry Lee

of

Westmoreland

MAR 5



Boston February 20 1775

Dear Sir

My friend Mr Adams favord me
with the sight of your last Letter, I am sincerely
glad of your Return to England, as I think
your Assistance was never more wanted there
than at present, It is truly astonishing
that Administration should have a Doubt
of the Resolution, of the americans
to make the last Appeal rather than
submit to wear the Yoke prepared for their
Necks, We have waited with a Degree of
Patience which is seldom to be met with
but I will venture to assert that there
has not been any great Alloy of Cowardice
though both Friends and Enemies seem to suspect

sometimes speak of an open Rupture with
Great Britain as a State preferable to the
present uncertain Situation of Affairs. But
altho, it is true that the People have yet
a very sincere Affection for the British
Nation yet it sensibly decays, they are
loyal Subjects to the King, but they conceive
that they do not swerve from their Allegiance
by opposing any Measures taken by any
Man or set of Men, to deprive them of their
Liberties, — They conceive that they are
the Kings enemies who would destroy the
Constitution, for the King is an inviolable
when the Constitution is destroyed
It is not yet too late to accommodate the Dispute
amicably but I am of Opinion that if
one

General Gage should lead his troops into the country with Design to enforce the late Acts of Parliament, Great Britain may take her Leave at once of the new England Colonies and I do mistake not of all America If there is any Wisdom in the Nation I am grateful it may be speedily call'd forth, every day over Hour wears the Breach Richmond & Chatham & Shelburne & Camden with their noble Associates may yet repair it, as it is a Work which none but the greatest of men can accomplish, may you be successful and happy in your Labors for the public Safety

I am Sir with great Respect
Your most humble & obt Servt

D. S. (No 6) Feb.y 24th 1775.

All America has received with astonishment and concern the Speech to Parliament. The wicked violence of Ministry is so clearly expressed, as to leave no doubt of their fatal determination to ruin both Countries, unless a powerful and timely check is interposed by the Body of the People. A very small compleated Junto in New York excepted, all America is now most firmly united and as firmly resolved to defend their Liberties ad infinitum against every Power on Earth that may attempt to take them away. The most effectual measures are every where taking to secure a sacred observance of the Association — Manufactures go rapidly on, and the means of repelling force by force are universally adopting. The inclosed Address to the Virginia Delegates published a few days since in the Gazette will shew you the Spirit of the Frontier Men — This one County of Lancaster can furnish 1000 rifle Men that for their number make the most formidable light Infantry in the world. The six Frontier Counties can produce 6000 of these Men who from their amazing hardihood, their method of living along in the woods without carrying Provisions with them, the exceeding quickness with which they can march to distant parts,

and above

all, the dexterity with which they have arrived in the use of the Rifle Gun. There is not one of these Men who with a distance less than 200 yards or a longer object than an orange + Every shot is fatal. The Virginia Colony Congress meets the 20th of next month for the appointment of Delegates to the Continental Congress in May next, and for other purposes of public security. The Ministry who are both foolish and wicked think by depriving us of Assemblies, to take away the advantage that results from united and collected counsels. But they are grievously mistaken In despight of all their machinations, public Councils will be held, and public measures adopted for general security. Still we hope that the proceedings of the last Continental Congress when communicated to the people of England will rouse a spirit that shewing fatal to an abandoned Ministry may save the whole Empire from impending destruction. The honorable Col.o Lee of Stratford was buried this day, he died the 21st ultimo after a month painful illness. He is a public loss, and if the Ministry go on filling up these vacancies in the Council with raw boys and hotheaded senseless People, the affairs of Virginia must be in desperate confusion, altho the present dispute should be accommodated. It is absolutely necessary that some grave sensible Men should now be placed there in order to temper the present heady.

The

pamphlet entitled an Appeal &c is, I think, the best I have read on the subject amidst such a variety of finely reasoned ones.

Farewell

P.S. By authentic accounts just come to hand, all the Ministerial efforts with New York and the Jersey Governments have failed, both Assemblies have highly approved the proceedings of the Continental Congress, thanked their Delegates and appointed them to represent their respective Colonies in the next May Congress. From N. York they have lately sent back a Ship from Glasgow with goods that arrived after 1st of Feb.y recently allowing the Usual time to get fresh provisions. It is now therefore certain that without a redress of Grievances, G. Britain must prepare to do entirely without the N. American trade, nor will the British Isles in the W. Indies get their usual necessary supplies from the Continent. Georgia has acceded to the Continental Associations, and we understood Canada will have Delegates in the next Congress. You will oblige me greatly by giving my boys advice and pressing to diligent application as often as you have Leisure to do so. You never say whether or when you take the Gown, and where you propose to practice.

Farewell

R. H. Lee to Arthur Lee

(No 16)

Feb 24 1775

(Copy Entire)

(No 191)

No. 191

Arthur Lee

Esqr

London

Doctors Commons

Feb 24

Inclosed

Lee to R. H. Lee

Feb 24th

Col Francis Lightfoot Lee

My Dear Brother London 24 Feb. 1775.

Capt (Dobbie has just told me that he goes tomorrow, so I cannot say much; for Politics refer to the inclosures. I am so convinced & from the best information that there is no real change intended here in the political plans formed ag^t America that I shall make mine in my mercantile plans, which have been already communicated to you. Capt Outram goes in 8 or 10 daies but I have not been able to get a charter in him, therefore shall as soon as possible send a ship out to be loaded, in James, York or Rapp^k, as you may advise. I think my Acct Sales this year will give me the preference on Rapp^k — therefore am much concerned that my continued engagem^t ever since the begining of Jany in the Public concerns resisting America prevents me from sending them now.

My correspondents will I hope excuse me; It seems to me that 3 or 400 Hhds might be got consigned on York River & as many on Rapp^k besides what this Adventure brings, therefore shall provide Ships accordingly, if they can be had on reasonable Terms, which is not the case at present, but you may be assured of my sending one at least, by the middle of next

month, from hence, of £ or 300 bills, which, I am sure may be easily loaded with you to be prepared for. (Dan.l Tibbs of Westmoreland drew a bill on me for £10. which when due was not brot for payment, whether it is lost, or gone back I cannot tell, tho' it has been due ever since the 10th of Jan.y. If this Bill be sent back 'tis not my fault, and shd certainly have paid it, if I had seen it, when it became due

all this you will be so good as to inform Mr. Tibbs of as soon as an opty offers, tho' he cannot complain as he never wrote me any letter abt the bill or his Tobo—

I shall write you often, therefore shall conclude, with Mrs Mrs. Lees & the little Patriots love to all at Munden & sending you some Rhubarb seed, to be sowed as soon as you get it, in good soil where will cultivated & secure from the extreme severity of the Winter weather it will in 3 years produce a fine root better than any you can import — this grew in England — some silk worms Eggs for Mrs. Lee, amusement, which our Bror Templar brot from Italy; & some most excellent Rock Cantalupe Musk Melon seed, which you are to divide with our Bror Thos. Ludwell & Richd. Henry. Farewell —

William Lee

London Feb. 25. 1775

Tho' much political intelligence is sent to Philadelphia, to meet you on the Congress, I must with only a moments time, inclose you an attested copy of y.r Gov.rs letter to L.d Dartmouth, another attested copy shall be sent to the Speaker & Treasurer, you will judge whether it may not be proper to publish it, which may easily be done in Pennsylvania or Maryland, if the Virg.a printers refuse. The malignancy of it & the wickedness in urging y.r enmities to persevere in their plans of destruction ag.t America ought certainly be exposed that the minds of men may be disposed in time, to raise their fury, when the first blow is struck in America, & keep it in safe custody to answer for the life of any American — life for life. This conduct ought be pursued in every Colony, & also to raise on every th—gs Officer. Jay, one of the Delegates from New-York to the last Congress, has by letter betrayed its secrets to administration here, this can't be absolutely proved because his letters cannot be come at, but the ministers have asserted it, therefore ought he again be appointed, it may be necessary to administer an oath of secresy to each member. Gov.r Colden, Watts DeLancey, White one of the Council, McEvers & Colt the Treasurers of New York, have written that they will support the ministerial

& forming schemes to create a division among the Colonies; —
plans ag^t America, on receiving these advices from N.Y. & Virg^a
together with opposition here gaining ground every day Ld North
brot forward his motion, ~~the~~ the 20th instant in the H. of Com^ns
which you have herewith; in order that he might easily get the
bill passed for staving the N England governments & quiet the
minds of people here, till his plans were carried into execu-
tion & at the same time divide America as the N. York Traitors
had advised. Tho' the motion is so palpably deluisive & means
nothing good, for it is not binding were it had been expressed
in explicit terms, yet by simple inverting in all the papers at
first that it was fully giving up to America the right of
taxation & that every thing was to be amicably settled, it ran
like wildfire in the minds of men that it was so, & when the
true motion came out, the original impression was so fixed
that people still conceived it to mean what in their own minds
they at first believed; the delusion is however wearing off &
from the genius of the people I do expect they will soon be more
violent than ever ag^t the ministry. This plan you may be
assured was devised by L^ds North, Bute & Jenkinson only. —
However to prevent your being deceived by false appearances, depend
on the following to be the plan adopted & that will for a time at least
be pursued ag^t America. The Ministers alarmed at the conduct of
Virg^a & encouraged by the traitors already mentioned in New
York, are have determined to send the troops now embarking, to
under Genl Howe, Clinton & Burgoyne to New York which
is to be a place of Arms, to secure that Colony with the assis-
tance of Delancy, Colden, Wallis &c & to prevent any commu-
nication or assistance from Virg^a or any of the other Colonies
getting to New England. The Bill inclosed is to pass into a law

y Ld North declared in the House of Commons that the same restrictions were soon to be extended to the other Colonies.

But I am well convinced as I am of my existance, that if New York joins cordially with the other Colonies & you all continue firmly united & prepared for the last event, the Ministers will instantly retract, for they will never dare to advance or even to continue the present system, if all America is united. Tis worth all y^r attention to secure N. York, but y^d that Colony fail the common cause, still all the rest must persevere & cut of all intercourse with the Town of N. Y. which in 12 M^os wd bring the gentry there to their senses & their trade wd by such a step be almost totally destroyed. In every Colony as soon as the Assemblies meet they y^d pass an Act, to bind every County to keep at its expence a magazine of Arms & Ammunition in the body of each County, besides what each militia man is obliged to keep in his own possession. The County Courts to be authorized to give premiums for encouraging Woolen & Linen Manufactures.

Think of my plan for emancipating the Negroes and abolishing every kind of slavery in America. The inclosed letter you will make such prudent use of as you may think expedient. Among the Merch^ts there you have some incorrigible enemies, viz. ~~most~~ all the New England Merch^ts except Mr Brownfield; John & Blackburn & Pigon & Booth New York & Phil^a Merch^ts Saml Eliot & Thos & Rowland Hunter Virg^a Merch^ts, Jno Nutt & Chris^r Vallerton of the house of Neufville & Vallerton S^o Carolina Merch^ts. These men y^d be stigmatized in America; partic-

larly Mr. Sam.l Gist who being one of the Merch.ts Com.tee at this time, never attends but when it is to carry some ministerial point & then shows the most rancorous malignity ag.st America & the people there, that you can possibly conceive. This ought to be fully known in Virginia tho' not that it comes from me. While the ministers reward their partizans amply, you will contend on very unequal ground, if you reward the same infamous tools by placing your property & confidence in their hands. I shall always ready, if called upon properly to state as freely some part of his conduct; one in particular, respecting the Merch.ts last petition to the H. of C. which you have inclosed. ——— You may assert with confidence that it is (by express) in every instance when present, opposed any sentiments bring introduced into our petitions that tend to the avowed or idea of your taking any part with America, or hinting that we that them oppressed & injured ——— That he has always endeavored to get the most servile & abject ideas introduced to flatter administration & implore their gracious protection. ——— In the last petition particularly he wished us to assent indirectly to the wicked & bloody ~~execution~~ addition of the two houses to the H. of L. that Massachusetts Bay was in rebellion & that the other Colonies were aiding & abetting them; for the truth of this refer enquirers to Mr. Bromfield, Mr. Waldrid & Mr. Lee or Mr. Molleson all members of the Common Council

Dear Sir Boston Feby. 1775

I am obledged to you for your favor of the 6 Dec.r last, I heartily rejoice to hear you are safely arrived in London, we are much obledged to you for Travelling night & Day from Rome in order to Do what Service you can at so important a Crisis—

The People in America are not at all dismayed at the Kings Speech, they wish for peace and for an amicable and Equitable Settlement of their unhappy Controversy, but if their Hopes should be cast off by the intemperate & Violent Conduct of the Mother Country, after the Conciliatory Measures that have been made by the Continental Congress, by which they have reduced the dispute to mere matter of Speculation, & administration should determine to carry into Execution the late Acts of Parliament by a military force, the People of America, I am persuaded, will make the last Appeal, they are determined & firm and Liberty shall go together. You need not be Concerned, Firmness & Unanimity prevail through all the Colonies, the Association of the Continental Congress is Sacredly Adhered to, & I have just been informed

that the Merchants at New York have obliged a Vessel from Scotland that arrived there since the 1st of July to return immediately without breaking Bulk. our People are prompt and forward in their military Exercises, there never was, since we have been a People, such a Martial Spirit prevailing as at present, but God forbid we should be ever driven to the Dispute by arms, may the great Governor of the Universe therunto elevate the Councils of the Nation at Head & Sanctify measures as may restore peace, Harmony and happiness to both Countries — I had the pleasure of seeing your Brother & Lee at the Congress at Philadelphia & spending many an agreable Hour with him, he is a steady Friend to his Country an an able Defender of her Rights. pray let me hear from you by every opportunity, & advise me constantly of the designs of Administration relative to America

I am with great Truth
Your sincere Friend & Humble Ser
Thomas Cushing

Arthur Lee Esqr

P.S. The Terms of Accommodation between G. B. & the Colonies, which you & Dr Franklin Judged so exceptionable, have been altered & approved of by all the leading Men in almost all the Colonies & by the Congress at Philadelphia

Col. Francis Lightfoot Lee

My D.r Brother

London March 1. 1775.

[illegible] this goes to the Dra[illegible] to catch
Capt. Dobbie. Mr Hyslop's letter, please to forward as soon as possible.

The inclosed paper will give you a true idea of Lord North's
motion, that is, what he meant by it. Last night we were heard
& produced evidence at the Bar of the House of Commons agt the
Fish Bill as 'tis call'd of which you have a copy. Our evidence
has embarrassed the Minister but still I think the Bill will pass
which will embarrass him still more in this country. Ld North's reso-
lution was reported to the House from the Committee last Monday &
passed after long debates. It's fallacy, is now well understood, instead
of verifying his purpose, has made him weaker as I always
expected it would. The War preparations are still carrying on against
America, — the troops are designed to embark from Ireland in all
this month but they will hardly get to Boston or New York before
the Middle or latter end of May. You must take care of yourselves.

By all means preserve union among the Colonies & you will be safe.
The Packet which arrived yesterday has destroyed in great measure the
ministers hopes of seducing New York, for tho' the Assembly would
not confirm the proceedings of the Congress, the Committee unanimously
resolved to adhere to the association. You must exert yourselves
for us this year as we shall have nothing to do the next.

Farewell. William Lee

Col. Francis Lightfoot Lee

My Dear Brother London 11 March 1775

..... I have wrote you, since my ship the Adventure sailed for Potomack, many Letters, by Gibson Greig & Dobbie to which be pleased to refer, tho' you will hardly receive them before this, as a continued cruel contrary wind for 6 Weeks past has kept all the outward bound ships in the channel. I have chartered the ship Prospect Capt. Norwood of abt. 550 tuns. that will sail from hence in 10 days. for York River, if 200 hhds can be got on consignment there & to fill up with Tob.o from Rapp & Jas. Rivers, however Capt. Outram has promised to do me every service in his power & is to have the management of the Prospect on Acct. of the Owner, so that you will be so good as to advise with him & Mr. Browne where it will be best for this ship to lye in order to give her dispatch. Shd. any accident have happened to Mr. Browne his Letters directed to your care, you will please to open, as I have wrote to him more fully on mercantile affairs, since he will have nothing else to attend to. —— As I shall write you by Robinson to Rapp & by Capt. Norwood both within 10 days therefore at present shall only say the Bill for preventing the 4 New England Governments from Fishing & confining there trade in every Article whatsoever

G. Britain, Ireland & the British W. Indias, is now before the Lords having passed the H. of C. - last night I prepared a pretty strong petition agst it to the Lords, which the London Merchts &c will get presented the 11th inst. in the second reading, & the bill will pass. Another Bill is this day brot into the H. of C. by Ld North, to confine the trade in every Article, from & to New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia & No Carolina to G B. Ireland & the British W. Indias only. Surely these bills will strengthen the union & perseverance of all the Colonies or nothing can do it. Mr Lee has by Way we are all well, & find our Office Lines to Minutes. I am Sincerely Yours

William Lee

Col. Francis Lightfoot Lee

My Dr Bro.r

London 13 March 1775.

For fear my letters to you am.t Browne ff Outram who.d miscarry, this will advise of my having charter'd the Prospect Capt. Norwood a ship of 330 hhds to load in York river; she will sail from hence in all this week therefore pray give m.r Browne the earliest intelligence of this that he may be provided as well as he can. The first step will be to see Outram & leave a letter of instructions for Capt. Norwood at the York Naval office, as soon as you have settled with Capt. Outram where it is best for the Prospect to lye, as Outram is to have the management of his own Acc.t of the owner, & has besides promised to do every thing he can to serve me. The best measures shd be taken to get the Orders of Col. Martin Messrs. Washingtons & Martin Pichat when Sol.rs generally lye at Falmouth. Shd m.r Browne be with you he will take the chief labour on him, under y.r direction, & assistance; but if any accident has happened to him, I must rely entirely on you. — I wish I may at least get 200 hhds at York river, & what out from Capt.n Snelder what may be had from the Trents, & their Comp.ys — The Adams's, Col. Byrdges on James River — You will, I am sure, do the best you can.

Y.r most Affect.e Brother

William Lee

Cravenstreet Mar. 19. 1771

Dear Sir,

I leave Directions with Mr. Stevenson to deliver you all the Massachusetts Papers when you please to call for them. I am sorry that the Hurry of Preparing for my Voyage and the many Hindrances I have met with, prevented my meeting you & Mr Bollan, and conversing a little more on our Affairs before my Departure:— I wish to hear of your Health and Happiness, and shall be glad to hear from you by every Opportunity. I shall let you know how I find things in America:— I may possibly return again in Autumn, but you will if you think fit continue henceforth the Agent for the Assembly of the Massachusetts, which I cannot again undertake.— I wish you all Happiness, and am ever, Yours affectionately B Franklin

Sir, Boston March 21 1775

I am much obliged to you for your favor of the 4th of Feb. last by Capt. Leighton.

From the Beginning of this great Contest between the Mother Country, I have seen Virginia distinguishing her self in Support of American Liberty. And, in the liberal Donations received from all Parts of that Colony for the Sufferers in this Town, we have had abundant Testimonies of their Unanimity, and Zeal for that all-important Cause. I have the Pleasure to assure you that the People of this Colony (leaving a few detestable Men, most of whom are in this Town) are also firm and united.

General Gage is still here with Eleven Regiments besides several Detachments; yet it is generally supposed, that there are not more than 2500 effective Men in all. They have been very sickly through the Winter past. Many have died, and many others have deserted. I have seen a Joint List, and I believe it to be a true one, of the Royal Irish and the Detachment from the 65th in which the whole Number was 167,

and

and only 102 of them effective. But though the Number of the Troops are diminished, the Insolence of the Officers (at least some of them) is encreased Exceedingly. However, I have not heard of a single Instance of their coming off other than second best. I will give you several Instances of their Behaviour in publick. On the 5th Instant there was an Adjournment of one of our Town Meetings, when an Oration was delivered in Commemoration of the Massacre on the 5th of March 1770. I had long expected that they would take that Occasion to beat up a Breeze and therefore (seeing many of the Officers present before the Orator came in) as Moderator of the Meeting I took Care to have them treated with Civility, inviting them into convenient Seats &c, that they might have no Pretence to behave ill; for it is a good Maxim in Politicks as well as in War to put and keep the Enemy in the wrong. They behaved tollerably well till the Oration was finished, when, upon a Motion made for the Appointment of another Orator, as usual they

they began to hiss, which irritated the Assembly to the greatest degree, and confusion ensued — They however did not gain their End, which was apparently to break up the Meeting, for Order was soon restored, and they proceed regularly, and finished the Business. I am persuaded that were it not for the Danger of precipitating a Crisis, not a Man of them would have been spared. It was provoking enough to the whole Town, that while there were so many Troops stationed here with the Design of suppressing Town Meetings, there should yet be one for the purpose of deliberating on Measures to commemorate a Massacre perpetrated by Soldiers, and to shew the Danger of standing Armies. They therefore it seems a few days after invited their Patriotism on a poor simple Countryman, the State of whose case is drawn up by himself and sworn to before a Magistrate, as you will see by the inclosed. Thus you see that the Practice of tarring and feathering, which has so often been exclaimed against by the Tories, and even in the

The British House of Commons, as in known are
backwards, has at length been visited by some of
the polite Officers of the British Army, stationed in
this Place, professedly to prevent Riot. Some
Gentlemen of the Town waited on the General on
this occasion. He appeared to be angry at it
and declared that he knew of nothing about
any such Design. He said that he indeed
heard an irregular Beat of the Drum, (for
they passed by his House) but thought they
were drumming a bad Woman through the
Streets. This is because would not have been a
Riot. The Selectmen of Billerica, an inland
Town about Thirty Miles distant, to which
the abused Man belonged, have since made a
Remonstrance to the General, a Copy of which is
inclosed. The General promised them that he would
enquire into the Matter, but we hear Nothing
more about it. Some say that he has lost the
Command over his Officers, and is afraid of
displeasing them. How this may be I cannot
say. If he does not soon punish the Officers
concerned in this dirty Action, which was done
in direct Defiance of their own Articles, one would

Rec'd 27 1774.

|| 4 || Here let the Letter end, in the Copy. Thank

Col. Francis Lightfoot Lee

My Dear Brother London 21 March 1775

You have enclosed Acc.t Sales for 23 Hhds
Uh hdw rec.d p. Thomas nett proceeds £20 2 9 q.ales for 3 Hhds.
p. Robertson nett proceeds 26. 15. 9 which sum we are to say Credit
& hope the sales will please as from my computation they are at least
40 p. ct Hhd more than you could have got in this Country, but I shd have
been much happier had they been £10 p. Hhd more than the Country
price. My time has been so taken off from my private affairs, by the
Public American concerns, that it has been utterly impossible for me
to mind all the sales for Thomas Cargoes tho' the Tobo has been long
sold. All the Gut on Rapp.k have their sales except Mr L. Peachy
who shall have his with those on Potomack, by either Maxwell,
Capt. Robertson, or Capt. Mitchell, who are both to sail in the
course of next month. You have been repeatedly advised of my
sending a Ship to York River, the Prospect Capt. Norwood of 550 Hds
now gone out for that purpose. Norwood is a Stranger in the Count.
but Capt. Oldham has engaged to do every thing that is necessary on
the Capt.l part in the Country, on my Account, as well as the Owners
who also owe the Liberty. I have wrote pritty fully to Mr Braxton
to which I refer you, as he is desired to communicate all my letters to
you, & if any accident have happened to him you will be so good
as to open his letters & act for me in the best manner you can
Col. Warner Lewis may perhaps, if applyed to, ship Tobo in the
Prospect

to discharge his Protested Bill. I do not apprehend you will be at all puzzled to load the Prospect, tho' it is impossible for me to judge what temper my correspondents may be in when she arrives. The Capt. is directed to wait on you immediately & I expect Capt. Cutbush will be with him to settle whether the ship shall lye in York or James River. Mr. Perrine & the Capt. may take care of all on the South side of Rapp.k, York & James River while you can do what is necessary on the North side of Rapp.k riv.r from Leeds Town downwards. I have not wrote to any of my Westmoreland correspondents supposing they will have enough to do with the Adventure, but wh.n they have any Tob.o left I dare say Capt. Robertson will be glad of it. The Letters for Martin Pichell the Gentlemen in Fredericks, Messrs. Rose & Mills sh.d be forwarded as soon as possible because they may all assist in the Prospects load. If you know the Executors of Jn.o Carter Esq.r of Cleve, they sh.d be assisted to for payment of the ballance due from his Estate, or to ship Tob.o ——— You know so well what is necessary to be done for dispatching this ship, that 'tis needless for me to say any thing more on that head, therefore shall only request you to get as much remitted as possible before the exports are closed either in Meal or Malt, & to retard all bills from being drawn 'till the Fall; indeed none have a right to draw for any thing material, except Col. Taylor, who has been so very kind hitherto that I hope his goodness will be continued.

My own Tob.o from Cyrus Spring will of course be put on b.d the Prospect. Also Policies you have them fully by Benson &c— together with the inclosed papers & mag.s We are all well & love you & my fireside sincerely. Farewell — William Lee

(No 70)

My Dear Brother. London 3 Apl 1775.

You have herewith a Pamplet written by our Br in support of the Congress Petition to y. King, the London Merch.ts & the House of Assembly of Jamaica's petition to y.e H. — The Journals of the H. of C. containing Mr Burkes motion respecting America which were made as the creed of the Rockingham Party, & the Protest ag.t the Fishing Bill. — The Livery of London met in Common Hall the 5th instant & I inclose you the draft of a Petition which we have prepared for them, which I doubt will be adopted. These documents together with the copy of Lord Chathams Bill, which you have had by various opp.ties, show explicitly the sense of all parties here respecting the American measures except the Ministerialists & Jacobites, who express their sense fully by the fleet & Army now going to Boston & New York. You have also a copy of the New Jersey Pensylvania &c restraining Bill with the Blanks filled up. The Proclamation of the States of Holland prohibiting the exportation of Arms &c show our wicked Ministers are trying every method to keep you defenceless, but it does not appear that they have yet been able to prevail on the Spaniards not to supply America with Arms &c. Having thus the whole ministerial system & the sense of Parties here clearly before you, The mode of resistance, for resist you will to the last

Brea

stake for granted, which is most likely to insure success, you can better Judge of than any body on this side the Atlantic.

In my opinion you have fully the means of succeeding? own power & we hope you will use them properly; But do not rely on any material assistance as yet from this country — depend upon your own exertions, and act like Men for the contest must now come to a final decision, & in my opinion it will end in an absolute independancy of the Colonies on this Country — perhaps there may continue a favourable Commercial league with G. B. which is as much as I expect you will grant us in a year or two more.

Whether you come to blows or not, still for very reason you shd. persevere in the Commercial opposition plan'd by the last congress, because you will find more & more every year how easily you can live within yourselves without the assistance of this Country & when remittances are wholly stopped the Merch.ts will seriously exert themselves to put a stop to the ministerial measures, for indeed it was shameful to see what shuffling there was ab.t our late petitions, perhaps I may hereafter give you a minute detail of the whole proceedings, at present I will only say you are not a jot obliged to above 3 in the whole committee for what was done — the whole was a true piece of Quaker & Scotch Policy; to deceive the Americans & thereby come in this year for the best share of what remittances were made, & I don't doubt they will succeed in some Colonies, particularly in Virg.a & Maryd.

You must religiously refrain from all connection & intercourse whatsoever with any Colony that does not adopt the Congressional resolutions, here the restraining Bills will assist you.

You cannot too much guard ag.st the ministerial arts to divide you, under their auspices large quantities of goods are now shiping in the transports hired by Government for Boston itself — This will no doubt be used by those who wish to break thro' the non importation agreement, as an argum.t for it, & the Bostonians will be charged with fraud and treachery, tho' it is universally known here to be a ministerial trick. — That there are rogues of Merch.ts in Boston, as well as London, I suppose nobody will deny therefore the landed interest in America has acted most wisely in taking the managem.t of this business into their own hands & making the merch.ts comply with what is tho't best for the general interest of the community in which they reside & by which they live. I shall write in 10 days to Phil.a so farewell — y.rs most aff.ly W. Lee

P.S. a large parcel of prints
are sent by this conveyance, from the most worthy Sr. S. T. Janssen Chamberlain of London, who is incessantly at work to serve the American cause, to the Chairman of the Congress to distribute in every part of America where they can be of use.

(1770)

Wm Lee
April 3d 1775

3d April 1775
Wm Lee Esqr
Boston

Col. Richard Henry Lee Esqr
of Virginia

No 84. 252

for the infatuation that has brought it into it prevent Da
but at the same time with indifference as far as my own personal
interest is concerned, & a perfect complacency in the consciousness
of having endeavord to act the part of a good citizen & to serve the
best of all causes — Will you farther mention me particularly to
Mr. Adams; & inform him that I greatly respect his character.

Some good friends of yours & mine are well, but I differ from
them at present in opinion.

Under a grateful sense of your friendship, & with great regard &
wishes of all possible happiness, I am D.r Sir, Your obliged & very
obedient & Humble Servant

(Signd) Rich.d Price

P.S. The interest of mankind depends so much on the forms of
Government established in America that I have long thought
it the duty of every man to contribute all he can towards improving
them. I am possessed of some observations which have been
made by a great man, & may some time or other take the liberty
to communicate them with a few additional observations.

—

N.o 3.

Boston April 3.d 1775

Dear Sir

Your favor of the 21.st of Dec.r came opportunely to hand
as it enabled me to give the Provincial Congress now sitting at Lon:
a just view of the measures pursuing by the tools of Administration

n cessation, & effectually to guard them against that state of security into which many have endeavord to lull them. If we ever obtain a redress of grievances from Britain it must be by the influence of those illustrious personages whose virtues now keeps them out of power. The K- g never will bring them into power until the ignorance & phrenzy of the present administration make the throne on which he sitts shake under him. If America is an humble instrument of the salvation of Britain it will give us the sincerest joy; but if Britain must loose her Liberty, she must loose it alone. America must & will be free. The contest may be severe; the end must be glorious. We would not boast, but we think united & prepar as we are, we have no reason to doubt success, if we shou be compell'd to the last appeal; but we mean not to make that appeal untill we can be justify'd in doing it in the sight of God & man. Happy shall we be if the mother Country will allow us the free enjoyment of our rights, & indulge us in the pleasing employment of aggrandizing her.

The members of the Continental Congress are almost all chosen by the several Colonies; indeed if any one Colony shoud neglect to choose Members, it would be ruinous to them as all intercourse woud immediately cease between that Colony & the whole Continent — The first Brigade of the army marched about four miles out of town three days ago under the command of Brigadier General (Lord Percy), but as they marched without

baggage or Artillery, they did not occasion so great an alarm as otherwise they would; nevertheless great numbers collected completely armed in the neighboring towns, & it is the opinion of many, that had they marched eight or ten miles & attempted to destroy any Magazine or abuse the people, not a man would have returned to Boston. The Congress immediately took measures for ascertaining the
Value passed proper
attempt to

acceptable—you may judge of my feelings by your own, for I will venture to say, they were as strong on the first authentic account of their wished for event; The failure of a Ministerial project, the misfortune of some of our British Bobadils was so near my heart as the famous Canada expidition of Lt. George, so grossly rou[illegible] by that ridiculous pidant B.

into power un[illegible] I am you have seen in Berkeley Square instruction make the throne it[illegible] greatest S in the kingdom, him. If America is an humble instrument [illegible] might against Britain it will give us the sincerest joy; but if ever to such a loose her Liberty, she must loose it alone—America [illegible] sink to & will be free. The contest may be severe; the end must be glorious—We would not boast, but we think united & prepared as we are, we have no reason to doubt success, if we should be compell'd to the last appeal; but we mean not to make that appeal untill we can be justify'd in doing it in the sight of God & men. Happy shall we be if the mother country will allow us the free enjoyment of our rights, & indulge us in the pleasing employment of aggrandizing her.

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April 5 1775 (137

Your Majesty will permit us to repeat what a wise & faithful Servant said to his misguided Master, in times too similar to these — that "By pursuing Counsels contrary to the general spirit of the Constitution & the interests of the People, the Prince may make his Ministers great Subjects, but they can never make him a great Prince.

Your Petitioners therefore most earnestly beseech your Majesty to dismiss immediately & forever from your Councils those Ministers & Advisers, to the first step towards a full redress of these grievances which alarm & afflict your whole People.

So shall Peace & Commerce be restored; & the confidence & affection of the whole of your Majesty's Subjects be the solid supporters of your Throne.

No. 5. April 6. 1775

The Remembrance
as it was drawn up
by me.

(City of London)

Compeso. in a Letter to the
Lord Mayor, thanked the City
of London for its address to the
King. The letter, ~~written with~~
~~exceeding elegance~~, was from
the pen of R. H. L. ~~I had the~~
~~original, but lent it to Lot~~
~~Hewes pointed out the~~
~~[illegible]~~

F. L. L.

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My Dr Brother

London 6 Apl 1775

I wrote you 8 days ago via Maryland under cover to M Tilghman Esq Speaker of that Province which I hope you will receive as there were some material inclosures Messrs. Wallace Davidson & Co were to send it by express from Annapolis to Phila. The Petition which I inclosed you a copy of was yesterday agreed to by a very respectable Common Hall if you publish that copy you must correct it in the spelling pointing &c which I had not time to do. The members of the Congress shd by all means be bowed to secrecy by Oath, for our Ministers have formed several plans to get information of yr most secret deliberations, if there is an Jscariot among you, he will easily get his 30 Shecles of Silver.

Mr Gilbert Barclay who married in Phila & was one of the consignees for the E. I. Co tea sent there, was sent express two days ago by a ship to Maryld to go to the Congress as a ministerial spy & give the earliest intelligence of what you are about. I do not know this man, but am told, he is wimple & addicted to boasting, therefore what little he knows may be easily got from him, tho no great credit is due to what he says. Mr Jos: Read of Phila you shd be cautious of, for he carries on a close correspondence with Lord Dartmouth who is as treacherous & deceitful a wretch as ever lived, with all Hillsboroughs malignity agt America, but a great deal more cunning. I shall be obliged to you for forwarding, by the very earliest opportunity from Phila such proceedings of

the Congress as are to be made public, with directions to the Capt. who brings them, if they are any thing material, to send them to me by express from the first port in England that he arrives at & not to trust them by the post; Expresses are to be hired at every post office in England at 8d. ℔ mile. Late advices from Spain have alarmed our Ministers much & a rupture is supposed not to be far off; however this is certain, that whenever the scene of War is fairly opened in America, in less than six months the French & Spaniards will both be upon us. —

From the fullest view & maturest consideration of the contest between our vile ministers & America, I am well convinced that nothing can defeat America but the Colonies severally depending too much on the assistance of each other, viz. New England depends on the Southern Colonies & they depend too much on N. E. Whereas to insure success every Colony ought to be provided and act, as if the whole contest was depending on its single exertions; as in an Army, each soldier ought to suppose the fate of the Battel depends on his single prowess. Thus providing & acting, at the same time getting what external assistance you can, & I will pawn my life on your Success.

In less than 12 Months after all communication & remittances to this Country are stopped the play will begin very seriously here — at present the Merchts do not feel & are besides some of them y^r inveterate enemies, none more so than Mr. Saml Gist a Tob^o Merch^t & Mr. Pigou a N. Y. & Phil^a Merch^t who declared one evening in the Committee, that he hoped the Savages would be let loose on them, viz. the Americans to cut all the damned Rascals throats.

Mr. Quincey I understand has got a list of y^r real friends as well as Enemies among the London Merch^ts — The Tob^o Merch^ts are greatly alarmed at advice rec^d from Glasgow that the Virginia ar

intend to stop the export of Tob.o this Spring — That wd be a heavy stroke, as the Ships are all gone out, but I do not myself believe it, as it might in some measure be a prejudice to the future decrees of a Continental Congress; however what the wisdom of America shall judge expedient for its salvation I shall submit to with patience: tho' extremely injurious to myself; yet if the export of Tob.o be stoped, it wd be general & all I can expect of my friends will be, to provide in the best manner they can to save me in the freight of the ships I have sent out. I shd be glad to know y.r opinion of Ld Chathams Bill. — It does not please me at all for two Capital reasons, 1st. it authorises by Law a standing Army being kept in the Colonies without their consent. 2dly this demand of a standing revenue even of a shilling, for what? why for this Country giving up what he declares it has no right to, viz. to tax the Colonies — for tho he calls it a free gift, yet no one can't alter the nature of things, yt it must be considered only as one Tax in lieu of another. Gent.n have recollected, that loans, benevolences or free gifts as well as Taxes &c for the use of the Crown, have been declared illegal if demanded of the people before they have been given by their own free consent.

I am well informed that £25,000 is already sent to Gen.l Gage for secret service money. whether this sum is to be applyed at Boston, New York or at the Congress I do not know, but in my private opinion the greatest part will sink into his own pocket; however watch. Capt.n McCulloch has a true copy of the Livery's Address &c to the King which will be presented the 10th inst. — The real friends of Amer.a are in high spirits — trusting that you will act as becomes the Sons of Englishmen.

I can't say a word on private business now, having wrote fully on that subject, by several oppertunities. Our Love to our Sister Shippen & Y.r William Lee

Brn. Lee

To
Col. Richd. Henry Lee
Chantilly Potomack
Virginia

No 70

April 7th. 75

My dear Brother

I inclose you the Remonstrance & Petition of the Citizens of London, in which they were very unanimous. The King has not yet given his Answer.

The Bill for stopping the Trade of the Southern Colonies, past the Lower House two days since. This will unite you in one common cause, if ever so disjointed. We are to thank the Ministry that they have given up the idea of division by partial infliction, except N. York. N. Carolina is omitted, because they had no Accounts from the Governor. But you must not flatter yourselves that the scheme of dividing is abandoned. On the contrary they are pursuing it, by means perhaps more to be feard, I mean corruption. For this purpose they have dispatched an Agent Col. Skeen to N. Y. & Gilbert Berclay a Scotsman to Philadelphia. They have besides their Correspondents, who are in your confidence & Councils. Of these I understand the principal are Mr. Jay of N. Y. & Mr. Read of Philadelphia, who was president of their Congress. Of the last I am sure; of the former ministerial People speak so confidently that I believe it true. You will therefore beware of these men. Joseph Galloway is another marked man. With some manage

(1071) ment, you might
mislead the Ministry by the very treachery of these
men. If you communicate to them in confidence, some
scheme directly the reverse of what you intend, in all
human probability it will be conveyed immediately hither, & by diverting their attention give you
time to execute, what you do intend. Read is Mr.
Dickenson's particular friend. That is, he has artfully & for his own purposes insinuated himself into
his confidence. He is a man of deep dissimulation
cunning, with whom self alone is sacred. He is therefore
exceedingly dangerous, Yet it will probly be difficult
to wean Mr. D. from him, I imagine you had better
consult with D. Franklin & Mr. Adams to learn
his treachery against himself & his ministerial
correspondents.

If your conquest is firm, & their Bribery justly
your conquest is inevitable. The Spaniards are certainly
arming in order to alarm the Ministry. Write me the first
movement that is resolved, & inclose it to John Jacob
Druggist near the Monument, London.

May Heaven bless & prosper you

Adieu.

London April 7th 1775.

(No 167.)

No 91 on

~~No 91 on~~

My Lord (214) April 12. '75.

I beg the favour of your Lordship to lay before his Majesty the peculiar Embarassment of my present Situation.

Your Lordship is no Stranger to the conduct which I have observed in the unhappy disputes with our American Colonies. The King is too just and too generous not to believe that the Votes I have given in Parliament have been given according to the Dictates of my Conscience. Whether I have acted or not the course of future Events must determine. In the mean time if I were capable of such duplicity as to be any ways concerned in enforcing those measures of which I have so publicly and solemnly expressed my disapprobation I should ill deserve what I am most Ambitious of Obtaining, the esteem and favourable opinion of my Sovereign.

My request therefore to your Lordship is this, that after having laid these circumstances before the King, you will assure his Majesty, that he has not a Subject who is more ready than I am, with the utmost chearfulness to sacrifice his Life and Fortune in the support of the safety, Honour and Dignity of his Majesty's Crown and Person. But that the very same Principles which have inspired me with these inalienable sentiments of duty and Affection to his Majesty, will not suffer me to be instrumental in depriving any part of his People of those Liberties which form the best security for their fidelity and Obedience to his Government. Nor can I without reproach from my own Conscience consent to bear Arms against my fellow Subjects in America in what to my weak discernment is not a clear cause, and as it seems now to be finally resolved that the 22nd. Regiment is to go upon the American Service I desire your Lordship to inform me in the most dutiful manner of his Majesties pleasure and humbly beg that I may be permitted to retire.

Your Lordship will also be so Obliging to entreat that as I waive what the Custom of the Service would entitle me to, the right of selling what I bought, I may be allowed to retain my rank in the Army, that whenever the Envy or Ambition of Foreign Powers should require it I may be enabled to serve his Majesty and my Country in that way in which alone I can expect to serve them with any degree of effect.

Your Lordship will easily conceive the Urgency and

1775 April 12

and Mortification I feel at being Necessitated to quit the Military profession, which has been that of my Ancestors for many Generations, to which I have been bred almost from my Infancy, to which I have devoted the study of my Life and to perfect myself in which I have sought Instruction and Service in whatever part of the World they were to be found.

I have delayed this to the last Moment, lest any wrong Construction should be given to a Conduct which is influenced only by the purest Motives. I complain of nothing, I love my Profession & should think it highly blameable to quit any course of Life in which I might be useful to the Public so long as my Constitutional Principles and my Notions of Honour permitted me to continue in it

I have the Honour to be with great Respect

Your Lordship's

most Obedient and

most humble Servant

Effingham

Adelphi Buildings
April 12th 1775

Lord Barrington
Secretary at War

12 April 1775
Ld Effingham
to
Ld Barrington
Resigns his office
&c &c &c

To the Queens Most Excellent Majesty
The Memorial of
Thomas Howard Earl of Effingham
Humbly sheweth
That your Memorialist having for many Years past had the Honour to serve your Majesty in the Army as an Officer

Lexington April 23. 1775

I James Barrett of Concord Colonol of a Regiment of Militia in the County of Middlesx Do Testify and say that on Wednesday Morning Last about Break of Day I was informed of the aproach of a Number of the Regular Troops to the Town of Concord where Was some Magazines Belonging to this Province Which there was assembled some of the Militia of this and the Neighboreing Towns which ordered Them to march to the North Bridge (so Called) which they had Passed and Ware taking up, I ordered said Militia to March to said Bridge and Pass the same But Not to fire on the Kings Troops unless they Ware first fired upon, We advanced Near said Bridge when the said Troops fired upon our Militia and Killed two men Dead on the Spot and Wounded Several others which was the first firing of Guns in the Town of Concord, My Detachment then Returned the fire which Killed and Wounded Several of the said Kings Troops James Barrett

Middlesex ss April 23. 1775

The above named James Barrett personally appeared and after due Caution & Testify the Truth Nothing but the Truth made Solemn Oath to the Truth of the above Deposition by him Subscribed

Before us

Wm Reed
Jona Hastings
Duncan Ingraham

Justices of the Peace

Province of Massachusetts Bay (Charlestown ss.

I Nathaniel Gorham Notary & Tabellion publick
duly admitted & sworn, do certify all whom it doth
or may concern that Wm Reed Jona Hastings &
Duncan Ingraham Esqrs are three of his majesty
Justices for the County of Middlesex and that full
faith & credit is to be given to their Transactions
as such in Witness Whereof I have hereunto
affixed my name & Seal this twenty sixth of June
one thousand seven hundred & seventy five

Nathaniel Gorham Not. Pub.

№ 2

Lexington Sept. 23. 1775

I Thomas Rice Willard of Lawful age do Testify and declare that being in the House of Daniel Harrington of said Lexington on the Nineteenth instant the morning about half an hour before sun rise, looked out at the window of said house and saw (as I supposed) about four hundred of Regulars in one Body, coming up the Road and marched towards the North part of the common back of the Meeting House of said Lexington and as soon as said Regulars were against the east ends of the Meeting house, the comanding Officer said something, what I know not, but upon that the Regulars ran till they came within about eight or nine Rods of about an Hundred of the Militia of Lexington, who were collected on said common, at which time the Militia of Lexington, dispersed, then the officers made an huzza and the private Soldiers succeeded them directly after this an officer rode before the Regulars, to the other side of the body, and hollowed after the militia of said Lexington, and said "lay down your arms, damn you why don't you lay down your arms" and that there was not a gun fired till the Militia of Lexington were dispersed and then further saith not.

Thomas Rice Willard

Middlesex ss. April d. 23 1775

the within named Thomas Rice Willard personally appeared and after due caution to testify the whole truth and nothing but the truth, made solemn Oath to the truth of the within Deposition by him subscribed

before us Wm Reed
Jona Hastings
Duncan Ingraham } Justices of Peace

No 4

Lexington April 25, 1775.

I John Parker of lawful age and command=
er of the militia in Lexington, do testify and
declare that on the 19th instant in the morning,
about one of the Clock, being informed that there
were a number of regular officers, riding up
and down the road, ſhoping and insulting people
as they passed the road; and also was informed
that the number of the regular troops were
on their march from Boston in order to take
the province stores at Concord, ordered our mili=
tia to meet on the common in said Lexington to
consult what to do, and concluded not to be dis=
covered, nor meddle or make with said regular
troops (if they should approach) unless they should
insult or violeft us, and upon their sudden ap=
proach, I immediately ordered our militia to dis=
perse and not to fire:- Immediately said troops
made their appearance and ruſhed furiouſly, fired
upon and killed eight of our party without re=
ceiving any provocation therefor from us.

John Parker

Middleſex ſs April 25th 1775: The Above Named John Parker
Perſonally appeared & after being Duly Cautioned to Declare
the whole Truth. made Solomn oath to the Truth of the
Above Deposition by him Subscribed

Coram Wm Reed
Josiah Johnson
Wm Stickney
} Juſtices Peace

Province of Massachusetts Bay Charlestown ss. I Nathaniel
Gorham Notary & Tabillion public duly admitted & sworn
do Certify that Wm Reed Jon.a Hasting & Duncan Ingraham
Esq.rs are three of his Majesty's Justices for the County of
Middlesex, and that full faith & Credit is to be given to their
Transactions as such. In Witness whereof I have hereunto
affixed my name & Seal this twenty sixth of April one
thousand seven hundred and seventy five

Nathaniel Gorham Notary

Province of Massachusetts Bay Charlestown ss
I Nathaniel Gorham Notary and Tabellion Publick
by Lawfull Authority duly Created & Sworn hereby
certify all whom it doth or may concern that
William Read Josiah Johnson & William Sheaffe Esqrs
are three of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for
the County of Middlesex and that full faith &
Credit is and ought to be given to their Doings
as such in the Premises whereof I have hereunto set
my Name & Seal this twenty sixth day of April
one thousand seven hundred and seventy five

Nathaniel Gorham Not. Pub.

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Lexington April 24: 1775

I John Robbins being of Lawfull age do Testify and say that on the 19th Instant, the Company under the Command of Capt. John Parker, being drawn up (a Small time before sun rise) on the Green or Common, and I being in the front Rank, there Suddenly appeared a Number of the Kings Troops, about a Thousand as I thought, at the Distance of about 60, or 70 yards from us Huzzaing and on a Quick pace towards us with three Officers in their front, on Horse back, and on full Gallop towards us, the foremost of which Cryed, throw down your Arms ye Villains, ye Rebels, upon which said Company dispersing, the foremost of the three Officers, ordered their men, saying fire; by God fire, at which Moment We Heard a very Heavy and close fire from them; at which Instant, being Wounded, I fell & Several of our Men were shot Dead by me, Capt. Parkers men, I believe Shall not then fired a Gun and further the Deponant Saith not

John Robbins

Middlesex ss April

I John Hobbins within Named appeard and being duly Cautioned to Testify the Truth and nothing but the Truth made Solem Oath to the South of the within Discription Subscribed by his Special Order he being so maimed and Wounded that he Cannot he Could neither Write his Name nor make his Mark

Coram Wm Read Josiah Johnson Just Pacs

Province of the Massachusetts Bay Charlestown ss

I Nathaniel Gorham Notary and Tabellion Publick by Lawfull Authority duly Admitted and Sworn Hereby Certify all whom it doth or may Concern that William Read and Josiah Johnson Esqrs are two of his Majestys Justices for the County of Middlesex and that full Faith and Credit is to be given to their Transactions as such in Witness whereof I have hereunto Affixed my Name and Seal this fourth Day of April Anno Dominii one thousand seven Hundred and twenty five

Nathaniel Gorham Notary Publick

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No 6

We Benjamen Tidd of Lexington and Joseph abbot of Lincoln in the County of Middelesex & Colony of Massachusetts Bay in New England of lawful Age do Testify and Declare that on the Morning of the Nineteenth of April Instant about five o Clock being on Lexington Common and mounted on Horses we Saw a Body of regular Troops marching up to the Lexington Company which was then Dispersing - Soon after the Regulars fired first a few guns which we took to be pistols from some of the Regulars who were mounted on Horses and then the Said Regulars fired a Volley or two before any Guns were fired by the Lexington Company our Horses immediately Started and we rode of and further Say not

Benjamin Tidd

Lexington aprel 25 1775 Joseph Abbot

Middlesex ss April 25th 1775

Benjamin Tidd & Joseph Abbot above named being Duly Cautioned to Testify the whole Truth made Solemn Oath to the Truth of the above Declaration by them Subscribed

Before Wm Reed
Josiah Johnson
Wm Stickney
} Just Peace

Province of the Massachusetts Bay Charlestown ss

I Nath.l Gorham Notary & Tabellion Public by Lawfull Authority duly admitted & Sworn hereby Certify all whom it doth or may Concern that Wm Reed Josiah Johnson & Wm Stickney Esqrs are three of His Majesties Justices of the Peace for the County of Middlesex and that full Faith & Credit is to be Given to their Transactions as Such In Witness whereof I have hereunto affixed my name & Seal this Twenty Sixth day of April One thousand Seven hundred & Seventy five

Nathaniel Gorham Not.y Pub.k

No 7

We Nathaniel Mulliken, Philip Russel, Moses Harrington Junr Thomas & Daniel Harrington, William Grimes, William Tidd, Isaac Hastings, Jonas Stone Junr James Wyman, Thadeus Harrington, John Chandler, Joshua Reed Junr Joseph Simonds, Phineas Smith, John Chandler Junr Ruben Lock, Joel Viles, Nathan Reed, Samuel Tidd, Benjamin Lock, Thomas Winship, Simeon Snow, John Smith, Moses Harrington 4th Joshua Reed, Ebenezar Parker, John Harrington, Enoch Willington, John Hosmer, Isaac Green, Phineas Stearns, Isaac Durant, & Thomas Headly Junr all of lawful age and inhabitants of Lexington in the County of Middlesex and Colony of the Massachusetts Bay in New England, do testify and declare that on the 19th of April instant about one or two O' Clock in the morning, being informed that several officers of the regulars had, the evening before, been riding up and down the road, and had detained and insulted the inhabitants passing the same; and also understanding that a body of regulars were marching from Boston towards Concord with intent (as it was supposed) to take the stores, belonging to the colony, in that Town. We were alarmed, and having met at the place of our company's parade were dismissed by our Captain John Parker for the present, with orders, to be ready to attend at the beat of the drum.- We further testify and declare that about five O' Clock in the morning, hearing our drum beat, we proceeded towards the parade and soon found that a large body of troops were marching towards us.— Some of our company were coming up to the parade, and others had reach'd it, at which time the company began to disperse. Whilst our backs were turned on the troops we were fired on by them and a number of our men were instantly killed and wounded,— Not a gun was fired

by any person in our company on the regulars
to our knowledge before they fired on us,
and they continued firing untill we had all
made our escapes

Lexington April 25, 1775

Nath.l Mulliken
Philip Reifsell
Moses Harrington Junr
Thomas Harrington
David Harrington
William Grimes
Williams Reid
Isaac Hastings
Jonas Stone Junr
James Wyman
Thaddeus Harrington
John Chandler
Joshua Reed Junr
Joseph Simonds
Phinehas Smith
John Chandler Junr
Reuben Loch
Joel Viles
Nathan Reed
Samuel Tidd
Benjamin Locke
Thomas Winship
Simeon Snow
John Smith
Moses Harrington 2d
Joshua Reed
Ebenezer Parker
John Harrington
Enoch Wellington
John Homer
Isaac Grant
Phinehas Stearns
Israel Dungan
Thomas Hadley Junr

Middlesex ss: April 25th 1775

Nathaniel Hubbikon
Philip Russell
Moses Harrington junr
Thomas Harrington
Daniel Harrington
William Grimes
William Tidd
Isaac Hastings
Jonas Stone junr
James Wyman
Shadden Harrington
John Chandler
Joshua Reed junr
Joseph Simonds
Phinehas Smith
John Chandler junr
Reuben Lock
Joel Viles
Nathan Reed
Samuel Tidd
Benjamin Lock
Thomas Winships

Simeon Snow
John Smith
Moses Harrington 3rd
Joshua Reed
Ebenr Parker
John Harrington
Enoch Willington
John Hosmer
Jesse Green
Phineas Sterns
Isaac Durant
Thomas Hadley junr

above Named being duly Cautioned to Testify the whole Truth made Solemn Oath to the above Deposition as containing nothing but the Truth & Subscribed by themselves

Coram Wm Reed, Josiah Johnson, Wm Stickney } Just Pacis

Province of Massachusetts Bay. Charlestown ss

I Nathaniel Gorham Notary & Tabellion Public by Lawful Authority duly admitted & sworn hereby certify all whom it doth or may concern That William Reed Josiah Johnson & William Stickney Esqrs are three of his Majestys Justices for the County of Middlesex & that full faith & credit is to be given to their Transactions as such In Witness whereof I have hereunto affixed my Name & Seal this twenty sixth day of April Anno Domini one thousand seven hundred & seventy five

Nathaniel Gorham Notary Publick

No. 8

We Nathaniel parkhurst, Jonas Parker, John Munroe Junr.
John Windship, Solomon Pierce John Muzzy, Abner Mead
John Bridge Junr. Ebenezer Bowman William Munroe 3d.
Micah Hagar Samuel Saunderson Samuel Hastings &
James Brown of Lexington in ye County of Middlesex &
Colony of Massachusetts Bay in New England & all of lawful
age do testifie & say that on ye Morning of ye Nineteenth
of April instant about one or two o'clock being informed
that a Number of regular officers had been riding up &
down ye Road ye Evening & Night preceding, & that
some of ye Inhabitants as they were passing had been
insulted by ye officers & stopped by them; & being also
informed that ye regular Troops were on their March from
Boston, in order (as it was said) to take ye Colony Stores
then deposited at Concord, We met on ye parade of our
Company in this Town; after ye Company had collected
We were ordered by Capt. John Parker (who commanded
us) to disperse for ye present & to be ready to attend
ye beat of the Drum & accordingly ye Company
went into Houses near ye place of parade.

We further testifie & say that about five
o'clock in ye Morning We attended ye beat of our Drum
& were formed on ye parade — We were faced towards
ye Regulars then marching up to us, & some of our Com-
-pany were coming to ye parade with their backs towards
ye Troops & others on ye parade began to disperse, when
ye Regulars fired on ye Company before a Gun was fired by

any of our Company on them — they killed eight of our Company & wounded several & continued their Fire until we had all made our Escape —

Lexington 25th April 1775

Samuel Sanderson
Samuel Hastings
James Brown

Nathaniel Parkhurst
Jonas Parker
John Munro Junr
John Winship
Solomon Peirce
John Muzzy
Abner Read
John Bridge Junr
Ebenezer Bowman
William Munro 3d
Micah Hagar

Middlesex ss April 25. 1775 Nathaniel Parkhurst Jonas Parker John Munro Junr. John Winship Solomon Peirce John Muzzy Abner Read John Bridge Junr. Ebenr. Bowman William Munroe 3d Micah Hagar Samuel Sanderson Samuel Hastings & James Brown abovenamed being duly cautioned to testify the whole truth made Solemn Oath to the truth of the above Deposition by them subscribed

Coram Wm Reed
Josiah Johnson
Wm Stickney

Jas Prescott

Province of Massachusetts Bay. Charlestown ss—

I Nathaniel Gorham Notary & Tabellion Publick by Lawfull Authority duly admitted & sworn hereby certify all whom it doth or may concern that William Read Josiah Johnson & William Sidney Esqrs are three of his Majestys Justices for the County of Middlesex and that full Faith and Credit is to be given to their transactions as such. in Witness Whereof I have hereunto affixed my Name & Seal this twenty sixth day of April Anno Domini One thousand seven hundred & seventy five—

Nathaniel Gorham Not: Pub:k

No. 9

I Timothy Smith of Lexington in the County of Middlesex and Colony of the Massach Bay in New England being of Lawfull Age do testify and Declare that on the Morning of the Nineteenth ~~Instant~~ of April Instant being at Lexington Common as a spectator I saw a Large Body of Regular Troops Marching up towards the Lexington Company then Dispersing and Likewise saw the Regular Troops fire on the Lexington Company upon the Latter fired a Gun immediately upon that they Were Discharged at Which put me in imminent Danger of Loosing my Life I soon then turned to the Common and saw Eight of the Lexington Men who Were killed and Lay Bleeding at a Considerable Distance from Each Other and also Nine Wounded and further Saith Not

Timothy Smith

Lexington April 25 1775

Middlesex ss: April 25th 1775

Timothy Smith above Named being duly Cautioned to Testify the the Truth Made Solemn Oath to the Truth of the above Deposition by him Subscribed

Before Wm Reed
Coram Josiah Johnson } Just Pac
Wm Stickney

Province of massachusetts Bay. Charlestown
ss. I Nathaniel Gorham Notary & Tabellion
public, by Lawfull authority duly admitted and
sworn hereby certify all whom, it doth or may concern
that Willm Reed, Josiah Johnson & Wm Stickney
Esqrs are three of his Majestys Justices for the
County of Middlesex. and that full and Credit
is to be given to their Granations as such. in
Witness whereof. I have hereunto affixed my Name
& Seal this twenty sixth of April One thousand
seven hundred and twenty five

Nathaniel Gorham Nolly Pubc

No 6

We Levi Mead and Levi Harrington both of Lexington in the County of Middlesex and Coloney of the Massachusetts Bay in New England and of lawfull Age do Testify and declare that on the Morning of the Nineteenth of april being on Lexington Common as Spectators We Saw a Large Body of Regular Troops Marching up towards the Lexington Company and Some of Regulers on Horses whom we took to be Officers fired a Pistol or two on the Lexington Company which were dispersing these were the first Guns that were fired and they were immediatly followed by Severa Volleys from the Regulars by which Eight Men belonging to said Company were killed and Several Wounded.

Lexington april 25th 1775

Levi Harrington

Levi Mead -

Middlesex Ss April 25th 1775

Levi Harrington and Levi Mead above Named being duly Cautioned to Testify the whole Truth Made Solemn Oath to the Truth of the above Deposition by them Subscribed

Before Wm Reed Just Peace
Josiah Johnson
Wm Stickney

Province of Massachusetts Bay. Charlestown ss.

I Nathaniel Gorham Notary Publick duly admitted & sworn, do certify all whom it doth or may concern that Wm Read Josiah Johnson & Wm Hickney Esqrs are two of his majty Justices of the peace for the County of Mid. and that full faith and credit is to be given to their Transactions as such, in Witness Whereof I have hereunto affixed my name & Seal this twenty sixth day of April Anno Domini one thousand seven hundred & seventy five —

Nathaniel Gorham Notry Publ.

Lexington April 25, 1775.

I William Draper of lawful age, and an inhabitant of Colrain in the County of Hamshire and Colony of Massachusetts-Bay in New England do testify and declare, that being on the parade of said Lexington April 19th instant about half an hour before Sun rise, the King's regular troops appeared at the meeting house of Lexington. Captain Parker's company, who were drawn up back of said meeting house on the parade turned from said troops making their escape by differsing. In the mean time the regular troops made an huzza and ran towards Captains Parker's company who were differsing; and immediately after the huzza was made, the comanding Officer of said troops, (as I took him) gave the command to the said troops, "fire! fire! damn you fire!" and immediately they fired, before any of Captain Parker's company fired. I then being within three or four rods of said reguler troops. And further say not.

William Draper

Middlesex ss: April 25th 1775

William Draper above Named being duly Caution. to Testify the whole Truth Made Solemn Oath to the Truth of the above Depositeon. by him Subscribed

Before Wm Reed
Jonas Johnson } Just Peace
Wm Stickney

Province of Massachusetts Bay Charlestown ss

I Nathaniel Gorham Notary & Tabellion public by Lawfull authority duly admitted & sworn, Do certify all whom it doth or may concern that Wm. Reed. Jonat Johnson & William Stickney Esqrs are three of his majesty's Justices for the County of Midd & that full faith and credit is to be given to their Proceedings as such. in Witness whereof I have hereunto affixed my Name & Seal this twenty sixth Day of April One thousand seven hundred and seventy five Nath Gorham Not Pub

Lexington April 23d 1775

We John Moor, John Whitehead Thos Garfield, Benjamin Wyman
Isaac Hark, William Hosmer, John Adams, Gregory Stone
all of Lincoln in the County of Middlesex Yeomen
all of Lawful age do testify and say that on Wednesday
Last we were assembled at Concord in the morning of
said Day in Consequence of Information, Received that a
Brigade of Regular Troops, were on their March to the
said Town of Concord, who had killed six men at the
Town of Lexington; about an Hour afterward we saw
them approaching to the number as we apprehended of
about twelve hundred on which we retreated to a hill
about Eighty rod back, and the said Troops then took
Possession of the Hill where we were first Posted, presant-
ly after this we saw the Troops moving towards the North
Bridge, about one mile from the said Concord Meeting
House, just before a party of them to the number of about
two hundred arrived; they there left about one half of their
two hundred at the Bridge and proceeded with the rest towards
Col. Barrets about two miles from said Bridge; we then
being several fires in the Town, thought the Houses in
Concord were in danger and marched toward the said Bridge,
and the Troops who were Stationed there observing our
approach marched back over the Bridge, and then took up
some of the Plank, we then hastened our march, towards
the Bridge, and when we had got near the Bridge they fired
on our men first of three guns, one after the other, and then
we then immediately went before them and passed the Bridge

a Considerable Number more, and then and not before having orders from our Commanding Officer not to fire till we were fired upon; we fired upon the regulars and they retreated; on their retreat through this Town, Lexington to Charlestown they Ravaged and destroyed private property and burnt three houses, one Barn and One shop.

Joshua Hoar
John Whitteredge
Abraam Garfield
Benjn Munroe
Isaac Parks
Wm Hosmer
John Adams
Gregory Stone

Middlesex ss. April 23d 1775

The within named John Hoar, John Whitteredge Abra Garfield, Benjamin Munroe Isaac Parks, William Hosmer, John Adams, Gregory Stone appeared and made Solemn Oath to the truth of the within Deposition before us

Wm Reed.
John Cuming
Jona Hastings
Duncan Ingraham

Justices of Peace

No. 12

Lexington April 23: 1775

I Thomas Fessenden of Lawfull Age testify and declare that being in Pasture near the Meeting House at said Lexington on Wednesday last at about half an hour before Sunrise I saw a Number of Regular Troops Marching by said meeting House on their Way towards a Company of Militia of said Lexington, who were Assembled to the numbers about one Hundred, in a Company at the distance of Eighteen or Twenty Rods from said Meetinghouse, and after they had passed by the Meetinghouse, I saw three Officers on Horseback advance the front of said Regulars, when one of them being within Sixty Rods of the said Militia, Cryed out disperse you Rebels immediately on which the Brandished his Sword over his Head three times, mean while, the second Officer who was about two Rods behind him fired a Pistol, pointed at said Militia and the Regulars kept huzzaing till no one Musket remained unfired, and when he had finished Brandishing his Sword, he pointed it down towards said Militia and immidiately on which the said Regulars fired a Volley at the Militia and then I saw no more as I could, while they continued firing till I got out of their reach, I further testify that as soon as ever the Officer cryed Disperse you Rebells the said Company of Militia dispersed every Way as fast as they could and while they were dispersing the Regulars kept firing at them inhumanly and further saith not

Thos Fessenden

Province of the Massachusetts Bay, Charlestown ss

I Nathaniel Gorham notary & Tabellion public duly admitted & sworn do certify that Wm Reed John Cummings Jonathan Hastings & Duncan Ingraham Esqrs are four of his Majesty's Justices, and that full faith is to be given to their Transactions as such in Witness whereof I have hereunto affixed my name & seal this twenty sixth day of April One Thousand Seven hundred & twenty five

Nathaniel Gorham Not Pub

Middlesex ss April 20th 1775

Then the Within named Thomas Dependen Upham and after
Jun Cutler Parker & Ebenr the whole Truth and nothing
South made to them Oath & the South of the within Description
by them subscribed

Before Wm Reed Just Peace
Josiah Johnson Just Peace
Wm Stickney

Province of the 6th Charlestown ss

I Nathaniel Gorham a Notary Public & Justice of the Peace
by Lawful Authority duly Commissioned and sworn hereby
Certify all whom it may or doth Concern that William
Reed and Josiah Johnson and William Stickney Esq[r] are
three of his Majestys Justices of the Peace of the County
of Middlesex that full Faith and Credit is to be
given to their Doings within the Province where
they act as such and that this twenty
sixth of April Anno Domini one thousand seven hundred
and seventy five

Lexington april 23. 1775

We John Hoar: John Whitehead: ~~Joseph Whitney~~ /
Garfield Benjamin Munroe Isaac Parks Jr
Harper ~~Aaron Parks~~ John Addams Gen. /stone
all of Lyncoln in the County of Middlesex maist Wr
all of Lawfull age Do testifye and say that on W[ednesday] Last
We Ware assembled at Concord in the morni[ng] and Day
in Consequence of Information Receivd that a Brigade of
Regular Troops Ware on their march to the said Town of
Concord who had Killed six men at the Town of Lexington
about an Hour afterward we saw them approaching to the
Number as We apprehended of about twelve Hundred on
Which We Retreated to a Hill about Eighty Rods back and
the said Troops then took Posession of the Hill where we Ware
first Posted: Presently after this we saw the Troops Mooving
towards the North Bridge about one mile f[rom] in the said Town
and Meeting House We then immediatly went before and Passd
the Bridge just before a Party of them to the Nu[mber] of about
two Hundred arived: they there Left about one Hu[ndred]
two Hundred at the Bridge and Proceeded with the rest
Col[o] Barretts about two miles from the said Bridge: w[e]
being Several Sores in the Town thought the Haunts
in Danger a[t] Concord
. wards the s[ai]d Bridg[e] an
Troops who Ware Stationed there observing our appr
Marched Back over the Bridge and then took up some
Plank: We then Hastned our March towards the Bridg
When We Had got Near the Bridge they fired on our
three Guns one after the other: and then a Considera
and then and not before Having orders from our
Officers not to fire till we Ware fired upon) w[e]
the Regulars and they Retreated: on their Re
this Town Lexington to Charlestown the
Distressed Private Property and Burnt the
Barn and one Shop

Jo.
John
Abra[m] Jca
Benj[a] Munroe
Isaac Parks
adm mer
John
Gregory

Sworn to & Subscribed April ye 28. 1775

within named John Hoar John & Nicholas
Gearfield Benjamin Munroe Isaac Parker
Hosmer John Adams Gregory Stone
red and made Solemn Oath to the Truth
of the within Deposition
before us

Wm Reed
John Cumming
Jon^a Hastings
Duncan Ingraham

Sworn to by Major Charleston
Graham Nevins & Lieutenant
and [illegible] do certify that
Cumming, Jon^a Hastings,
Ingraham Esq^rs are Justices of the Peace
affixed my name & seal
day of April One thousand
my Office
Charles Gorham Notary

Lexington April 23. 1775.

We Nathan Barrett Captain, Jonathan Harrar, Joseph Butler & Francis Wheeler Lieutenants, John Barret Ensign, John Brown, Silas Walker, Ephraim Melvin, Nathan Butterick, Stephen Hosmer Junr Saml Barret, Thomas Jones, Joseph Chandler, Peter Wheeler, Nathan Rice and Edward Richardson all of Concord in the County of Middlesex in the Province of the Massachusetts Bay of Lawful age testify & declare that on Wednesday the Nineteenth instant about an hour after sunrise, we assembled on a hill near the meeting house in Concord aforesd in consequence of an information that a number of Regular troops had killed six of our countrymen at Lexington & were on their march to said Concord, and about an hour afterwards we saw them approaching to the number, as we imagine, of about twelve hundred on which we retreated to a hill about eighty rod back, and the aforesaid troops then took possession of a hill where we were first posted. - Presently after this, we saw them moving towards the north bridge about one mile from said meeting house, We then immediately went before them, and passed the bridge just before a party of them to the number of about two hundred arrived. They there left about one half of their two hundred at the bridge and proceeded with the rest towards Col. Barrets, about two miles from the said bridge.

We then seeing several fires in the Town thought our houses were in danger, and immediately marched back towards said bridge, and the troops who were stationed there observing our approach marched back over the bridge and then took up some of the planks. — We then hastned our steps towards the bridge and when we had got near the bridge they fired on our men first three guns one after the other, and then a considerable number more upon which, and not before having orders from our commanding officer not to fire till we were fired upon) we fired upon the Regulars, and they retreated. — At Concord & on their retreat thro Lexington they plundered many houses, burnt three at Lexington together with a Shop and a barn - and committed damage more or less to almost every house from Concord to Charlestown.

Peter Wheeler
Nathan Rice
Edward Richardson

Nathan. Barrett
Jonathan Harrar Jun.
Joseph Butler
Francis Wheeler
John. Barrett
John Brown
Silas Walker
Ephraim Melvin
Nathan Butterick
Stephen Hosmer Junr
Samuel Barrett
Thomas Jones
Joseph Chandler

Lexington April 23. 1775.

We Joseph Bullard and Ephraim Melvin do testify and declare that when the Regular troops fired upon our people at the north bridge in Concord as related in the foregoing depositions, they shot one, & we believe two, of our people before we fired a single gun at them

Joseph Butler
Ephraim melvin

Middlesex ss April 23d 1775

The within named Nathan Barret, Jonathan Farrer, Joseph Bullard, Francis Wheeler, John Barret, John Brown, Silas Walker, Ephraim Melvin, Nathan Barrick, Stephen Hosmer Junr, Jame Barret, Thomas Jones, Joseph Chandler, Peter Wheeler, Nathan Pierce & Edward Richardson appeared and made solemn Oath to the truth of the above depositions by them subscribed

Before us —

Jona Hastings
John Cuming
Duncan Ingraham

Province of the Massachusetts Bay Charlestown } I Nathaniel Gorham notary & Tabellion Publick duly admitted and sworn do hereby certify all whome it may or doth concern that Jona Hastings John Cumings & Duncan Ingraham Esqrs are three of his Majestys Justices for the County of Middlesex and that full faith and credit is to be given to their transactions as such. in Witness whereof I have hereunto fixed a seal this twenty sixth of April one thousand seven hundred & twenty five

Nathaniel Gorham Notary Publick

Concord April 23 - 1775

Timothy Minot Junr of Concord on the nineteenth day of this instant April after dark Shot heard the regular troops firing upon Lexington men - and fearing that his Mother might be terrified at Concord - thought it my incumbent duty to secure my family - ——— after I had secured my family & some time after that returning towards my own dwelling and seeing that the bridge on the northern part of said Concord were guarded by regular troops - being a spectator of what had happened at said bridge & - believe that the Regular troops stationed on bridge - after they saw the men that were collected on the westerly side of said bridge marched towards said bridge - then the troops returned on to the easterly side of said bridge and formed themselves as I thought for a regular fight - after that they fired one gun - then two or three more - before the men that were stationed on the westerly part of said bridge fired upon them

Timothy Minot Junr

Middlesex ss April 23d 1775

Mr Timothy Minot Junr personally appeared and after due caution to tell the truth and nothing but the truth, made solemn oath to the truth of the above Declaration by him subscribed

Before us

Jon.a Reed
Jon.a Hastings
John Cuming
Duncan Ingraham
Justices of the Peace

"No 18"

Lexington April 23d 1775

We Bradley Robinson Samuel Spring Thaddeus Bancroft all of Concord: and James Adams of Lincoln all in the County of Middlesex all of Lawfull age Do Testifie and say that on wednesday morning Last near ten of the Clock we saw near one hundred of Regular Troops being in the Town of Concord at the north bridge in said Town (so Called) and dancing hoped the same they went to taking up said bridge when about three hundred of our Militia were advancing to wards said bridge in order to pass said bridge when without saying any thing to us they Discharged a number of Guns one of which Killed two men dead on the spot and wounded several (when we returned the fire on them which killed two of them & wounded several) which was the beginning of hostilities in the Town of Concord

Bradley Robinson
Samuel Spring
Thaddeus Bancroft
James Adams

Middlesex ss April 23d 1775 The within named Bradbury Robinson
Samuel Spring Thaddeus Barnes & James Adams made Solemn Oath
to the truth of the within Deposition by them subscribed

before us Wm Reed
Wm Stickney
Jona Hastings
Charles Lowell
} Justices Pad

Province of Massachusetts Bay } I Nathaniel Gorham Notary and
tabillion Public Certify to all whom it doth or may Concern that
William Reed, William Stickney & Jonathan Hastings Esqrs
are three of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County of
Middlesex & that full faith & Credit is and ought to be
given to their transactions as Such, In Witness whereof
I have hereunto Affixed my name & Seal this twenty Sixth
Day of April A.D. One thousand Seven hundred & Se
ventyfive Nathaniel Gorham Notary Publ

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Lexington April 23. 1775

I James Barrett of Concord Colonel of a Regiment of Militia in the County of Middlesex do testify and say that on Hearing that Regulars were landed at Boston marching out into the Country I ordered my Regiment to meet at Concord the Same morning early and was informed of the approach of a number of the Regular Troops to the Town of Concord that there was some Ammunition belonging to this County then there and ordered some of the Militia of this and the neighbouring Towns then Ordered them to march to the North Bridge (so called) which they had passed and were Entering up, Ordered said Militia to march to said Bridge and take the same but not to fire on the Regular troops unless they were first fired upon. We advanced over said Bridge when the said Troops fired upon our Militia and killed two men dead on the spot and wounded several others, which was the first firing of Guns in the Said Contest, the Detachment then returned the fire which killed and wounded several of the Regulars

James Barrett

Middlesex ss April ye 23^d 1775

the above named James Barrett personally appeared and after due Caution to testify the whole truth & nothing but the truth made solemn Oath to the truth of the above Deposition by him subscribed

before us Wm. Reed
Jon^a. Hastings
Duncan Ingraham } Justices of Peace

Province of Massachusetts Bay Charlestown ss

I Nathaniel Gorham Notary Public & Tabellion Public duly admitted and sworn, do certify all whom it doth or may concern, that Wm. Reed, Jon^a. Hastings & Duncan Ingraham Esqr are three of his Majesty's Justices for the County of Middlesex, and that full faith & credit is to be given to their transactions as such.

In Witness whereof I have hereunto affixed my name & seal this twenty sixth of April One thousand seven hundred & seventy five.

Nathaniel Gorham Not^y Pub^k

№ 4

Lexington April 25. 1775.

I John Parker of lawfull age, and commander of the militia in Lexington, do testify and declare that on the 19th inst. in the morning about one of the Clock being informed that there were a number of Regular officers riding up & down the road, stopping and insulting people, as they passed & alſo was informed that the Troops were on their march from Boston in order to ~~destroy~~ the Province Store at Concord, ordered our militia to meet on the common in said Lexington to consult what to do, and concluded not to be discovered, nor meddle or make with said Regular troops if they should approach, unless they should insult or moleſt us, and upon their sudden approach, I immediately ordered our militia to disperse and not to fire, immediately said troops made their appearance and huſhed furiously to fired upon and killed Eight of our party without receiving any provocation therefor from us

John Parker

Middlesex ſs: April 26. 1775. The above named John Parker, being duly cautioned to testify the whole truth, made solemn oath to the above Deposition, by Him subscribed.

Before me Wm Reed ?
Jeriah Johnson ? Just Pac
Wm Stickney

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Province of Massachusetts Bay Barnstable ss
Nath[anie]l Gorham Notary & Tabellion Publick & Lawful
Authority duly Admitted & Sworn hereby certify to all
whom it now or may concern that William Read
Josiah Johnson & William Sidney Esq[r]s three
of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County of
said Barnstable & Men of fair faith & credit & are and
to be given to their transactions as such in Witness
whereof I have hereunto affixed my name & seal
this twenty eighth day of April Anno Domini [illegible]
Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy five

Nathaniel Gorham Not[ary] Pub[lick]

We Nathaniel Mulliken Philip Russel Moses Harrington
Thomas & Daniel Harrington William Grimes Willard
Isaac Hastings Jonas Stone Junr. James Wyman Jr.
Harrington John Chandler Joshua Reed Junr. Jr
Phineas Smith John Chandler Junr. Reuben Green Joel Viles
Ithar Reed, Samuel Tidd Benjamin Locke Thomas Wood-
Simeon Snow John Smith Moses Harrington 4th Joshua
Viles John Harrington Enoch Willington John
Jones Jun & Isaac Green Phineas Stearns Isaac Durant
& Thomas Hadley Junr. all of lawful age & Inhabitants
of Lexington in ye County of Middlesex & Colony of Massachusetts
Bay in New England do testifie & declare, that on ye 19th
April Instant about one or two o'clock in ye Morn. being
informed that Several Officers of ye Regulars had ye We
before been riding up & down ye Road & had detain
insulted ye Inhabitants passing the same, and ye
standing that a Body of Regulars were marching
towards Concord with Intent (as it was supposed) to take ye
Stores belonging to ye Colony in that Town; We were alarmed
& having met at ye place of our Company's parade were dis-
missed by our Capt. John Parker for ye present with orders
to be ready to attend at the beat of ye Drum — We further
testify & declare — that
hearing our Drum beat We proceeded to ye Meeting
soon found that a large Body of Troops with ye parade &
towards us — Some of our Company were marching up to
ye parade & others had reached it; at which
to disperse. whilst our backs were turned ye began

ns

Were fired on by them & a number of our Men were
[illegible]ently killed & wounded. Not a Gun was fired by
[illegible]ster in our Company to our Knowledge or the Regulars
[illegible] fired on us, & they continued firing until
by [illegible] fired on us, & they continued firing until
We also had made our Escape —

Lexington April 25. 1775

Nath.l Mulliken
Philip.a Russell
Moses Harrington Junr
Jeremy Harrington
[illegible]
William [illegible]
Isaac Hastings
Jonas Stone Junr
James Wyman
Thaddeus Harrington
John Chandler
Josh.a Reed Junr.
Joseph Simonds
Phinehas Smith
John Chandler Junr
Reuben Cook
Jonad Bailey
Nathan Reed
Samuel Tidd
Benjamin Cook
Thomas Winship
Simeon Snow
John Smith
Moses Harrington 1750
Silvia Reed
Ebenezer Parker
John Harrington
Enoch Wellington
John Homer
Isaac Green
Thomas Harris
Isaac Durant
Thomas Hadley Junr

Middlesex ss April 25th 1775

Nath[anie]l Mallison Phillip Russell Moses Harrington Jun[r] Tho[s]
Harrington Daniel Harrington William Greene William
Greene Hastings James Stone Jun[r] Ephm[s] Wyman Thad[eus]
John Chandler James Reed Jun[r] Joseph Simonds Phineas
Chandler Jun[r] Reuben Lock, Joel Viles, Nathan Reed, Sam[ue]l
min Lock, Thomas Kingsbury, Simeon Snow, John
long[s] Joshua Reed, Ebenezer Parker, John Harris
John Hosmer, Isaac Green, Phinehas Stearns,
mas Hastings jun[r] above named being duly sworn
Truth, made solemn Oath to

Reed
Before Joseph Johnson } Just[s] Pac[e]
Wm Stubbs

Province of the Massachusetts Bay [illegible]
Nathaniel Gorham Notary [illegible]
duly admitted & sworn, [illegible]
& doth or may concern that Wm Reed, Jos
Johnson and Wm Stubbs Esqrs are
majesty Justices of the peace for the County
Middlesex and that full faith & credit is
to their Transactions as such is Meet
I have hereunto affixed my hand &
seal of office at Cambridge
this twenty
Nathaniel Gorham

3 Depositions of Sundry
Citizens of Massachusetts
Proving that the British Army
were the first Aggressors
in the Battle of Concord
April 1775

We Nathaniel Mulliken Philip Russel Moses Harrington [torn] Thomas & Daniel Harrington William Grimes William [torn] Isaac Hastings Jonas Stone Junr. James Wyman [torn] Harrington John Chandler Joshua Reed Junr. Jo[torn]monds Phineas Smith John Chandler Junr. Reuben Lock. Joel Viler [Na]than Reed, Samuel [K]idd Benjamin Lock Thomas Wind[tom] Simeon Snow John Smith Moses Harrington ye 3d. Joshua [torn] Eben [Park]ker John Harrington Enoch Willington John [torn] Isaac Green Phineas Steams Isaac Durant & Thomas Hadley Junr. all of lawful age & Inhabitants of Lexington in ye County of Middlesex & Colony of Massachusetts Bay in New England do testifie & declare, that [torn] 19th April Instant about one or two oClock in ye Morn[ing] being informed that Several Officers of ye Regulars had ye Eve[ning] before been riding up & down ye Road & had detain[ed] [torn] insulted ye Inhabitants passing the same, and also [under]standing that a Body of Regulars were marching [from Bo]ston towards Concord with intent (as it was supposed) [to] take ye Stores belonging to ye Colony in that Town; we [we]re alarmed & having met at ye place of our Company's parade were dis[persed] by our Capt. John Parker for ye present with orders to be ready to attend at [ye beat] of ye Drum - We further [torn] about [torn] 'Clock in ye Morning hearing our Drum beat. We proceeded [torn] ye parade & soon found that a large Body of Troops were marching towards us - Some of Our Company were [torn]ing up to ye parade & others had reached it; at which ye [torn] began to disperse. Whilst our Backs were turned [torn] were Fired on by them & a Number of our Men were [inst]antly killed & wounded. Not a gun was fired by [a per]son in our Company to our knowledge on ye Regulars [torn] fired on Us, & they continued firing untill We all had made our Escape - Lexington April 25. 1775 Nath. Mulliken, Philip Russell, Moses Harrington [Thomas] Harrington, Dan[iel Harr]ington, William [torn], William [torn], Isaac Hastings, Jonas Stone Jun., James Wyman, Thaddeus Harrington, John Chandler, Joshua Reed Junr.,Joseph Semonds, Phinehas Smith, John Chandler J[un.], Reuben Lock, Joel Vily, Nathan Reed, Samuel Kidd, Benjamin Lock, Thomas Winship, Simeon Snow, John Smithe, Moses Harrington ye 3d., Joshua Reed, Ebenezer Parker, John Harrington, Enoch Wellington, John Hosmer, Isaac Green, Phinehas Starns, Isaac Durant, Thomas Hadley Junr.

Middlesex: April 25th 1775

Nathaniel Mulliken Phillip Russell Moses Harrington Junr. Tho[torn] Harrington Daniel Harrington William Grimes William [torn] Isaac Hastings Jonas Stone Junr. James Wyman Thaddeous [torn] John Chandler Joshua Reed Junr. Joseph Simonds Phenias [torn] Chandler Junr. Reuben Lock, Joel Niles, Nathan Reed, Sam- [torn] Harrington, 3d. Joshua Reed, Ebenezer Parker, John Harrin- [torn] Wellington, John Hassner, Isaac Green, Phinehas Stearns, [torn] and Thomas Hadley junr. above named [torn] the whole Truth, made solemn Oath to [torn] subscribed.

[torn]Reed

[torn] Iasiah Johnson Justs. Pacs.

Wm Stickney

Province of the Massachusetts Bay [torn] I Nathaniel [illegible]ham Notary [torn] public duly admitted & sworn, hereby testify [torn] it doth or may concern that Wm. Reed, [torn] Johnson and Wm. Stickney Esqr. three [of his] majesty Justices of the peace for the county [torn] Middlesex and that full faith & Credit is to [torn] to this Transaction as such is Witn[torn] & have [torn] affixed my hand [torn, illegible].

Nathaniel Gorham [Notary Public]

[Endorsement:] 3 Depositions of Sundry Citizens of Massachusetts Proving that the British Army were the first aggressors in the Battle of Concord April 1775.

Mr Edward Browne

Dear Sir.

London 27 Apl 1775

I wrote you a short line last night, that we had not yet heard of your arrival; however I have no doubt of y[r] safety. Yesterday the French bot of S. G. the worst of Barrens Cargoe from Ja[s] River just landed 230 hhds at 3 3/4 of Mr Dunlop of a Pat[o] Cargoe just arrived upwards of 200 hhds at 3 1/2. — All the Tob[o] in Glasgow is bot up, the last price 3 3/4 & 10/. Perm[t] of hhd. From this you can regulate y[r] conduct if there shd be a necessity of buying either for Brown or Norwood. Indeed if you have ventured on purchasing on y[r] first arrival at the then Country price, a great advantage must be made by it. My Sales are all ready but there has not been an opp[y] to Pato. or Rapi: for 6 Weeks or two M[o] past, nor am I likely to meet with one for some time to wind them by. I wish they were with you as I am convinced they will make a figure when compared with those from other houses for last years Tob[o]. — More than one will be £14. upwards pr hhd & generally from £6. to 9 £ pr hhd. We are all well at Tower Hill & expect every day to hear from you. Y[rs] sincerely

Spare no pains to get what remittances you can for I do not see the least chance of the American dispute terminating in any other manner than in the absolute independancy of America on Great Britain. } William Lee

P.S. My Dear Bro will forward this to Mr Browne as soon as possible his own judgment will determine whether it is proper to let the above intelligence be known publicly respecting the present price of Tob[o] here. — It may perhaps raise the Country price so high as to prevent consignm[ts] & render purchases precarious

Mrs Lee, her Little Patriot & myself send our best Love to Munden & Mrs Hart Airy.

William Lee

Gentlemen / (No. 73 Gremes) Williamsburg the 27th April 1775

In compliance with your request we give you a candid Relation of the Distubance which happend last Week in this City about the removal of the Powder from the Publick Magazine. Early on Friday Morning the Inhabitants were universally and much alarmed at the Report that the Powder had been removed the preceeding Night under an Escort of Marines and carried on board an Armed Vessel at Burwells Ferry. The Common Hall assembled and presented the Address which we presume you have seen with the Governor Answer. The Inhabitants were so much exasperated that they flew to their Arms; This incensed the Governor a good deal and from every thing we can learn was the principal Reason why his Answer was not more explicit and favourable. His Excellency has repeatedly assured several Respectable Gentlemen that his only motive in Removing the Powder was to secure it, as there had been an alarm from the

County of Surry, which at first seem'd too well founded, tho it afterwards proved Groundless; besides what he has said in his Public Answer, he has given private assurances to Several Gentlemen, that the Power shall be Return'd to the Magazine, tho he has not condescended to fix the Day for its Return: So far as we can Judge from a Comparison of all Circumstances, the Governor considers his Honor as at Stake; he thinks that he acted for the best and will not be Compell'd to what we have abundant Reason to believe he would Chearfully do, were he left to himself — Frequent Messages have been sent from the Neighbouring Counties to enquire into the State of this unfortunate affair with the most friendly and Spirited offers of assistance and Protection. The City could not but hold themselves exceedingly obliged to those Gentlemen as they do to you Gentlemen, and the rest of our worthy Country Men, by whom we understand you are sent, We hope that you and the other Gentlemen can have no doubt of our paying the utmost attention to the Country's Interest as well as our own Security in particular. If We then may be permitted to advise, it is our opinion and most

earnest request that Matters may be quieted for the present at least; we are firmly persuaded that perfect Tranquility will be speedily Restored; By pursuing this Course we foresee no Hazard or even inconvenience that can ensue; whereas we are apprehensive, and this we think upon good Grounds, that violent measures may produce effects, which God only knows the consequence of.

We beg that our thanks and best Wishes may be presented to the several Gentlemen of this Country who have interested themselves in our Behalf and are

Gent.

Yr. much oblig'd Hble Servts.

Peyton Randolph for self
and the Corporation of the
City of Williamsburg

To

Mann Page jun.r Lewis Willis, and Benjamin Grymes
Esquires.

(No 104)

Corporation of
Williamsburg
& Jno Tazewell
business
1775

Peyton Randolph

No 385

April 27. 1775

Corporation of Williamsburg about removal of the Powder April 27. 1775 Petition case

No 385

Cambridge April 27 1774

My dear Sir and Friend Lovell just come
to come on shore to die in his own Country, he
expired Yesterday Morning his Letters & Friendship
him dear, and his Abilities useful to his Country.
The wicked Measures of Administration have
at length brought Matters to a Crisis, I think
it probable that the Rage of the People cannot
by the most clear view of the accursed Designs
of Administration, & the barbarous Oppression
of the Head of their Country men, will lead
them to attack General Gage and burn the
Ships in the Harbour, Lord Chatham & our
Friends must make up the Breach
as soon, if any thing favorable takes Place
will not make to talk of allaying the Colonies
to recount for it, but must be attributed
to the true Cause, the confidence of Resentment
given to this People, they never will even
talk of Accommodation until all the Projects
Ministry are entirely exploded, you may
depend the Colonies will soon suffer Depredation
shall come into any Measures with them,

The next News from England must be
comfortable, as the Commencement between
us & them however [illegible] the Consequences
may be, prudence may yet alleviate
the Misfortunes and calm the Convulsions
into which the Empire is thrown
by the Madness [illegible] of the
present Administration... may almighty
God direct you, & any Thing in my Power
that may be for the Honor and Safety of
United Britain & these Colonies my
utmost Efforts shall not be wanting
I am in the utmost Haste surrounded by
fifteen or twenty Thousand Men your

most obed Ser

P.S. The Narrative sent to Franklin
contains a true State of Facts but I was afraid to
make the People willing that any Note should be taken
of this Matter [illegible] by way of Narrative until the Army
& City were taken & secured

April 28th 1775. - Gov. Eden wrote from Annapolis to his brother in London, - "You need be under no concern about me. I am well supported, and not obnoxious to any, unless it be to some of our infernal Independents, who are in league with the Bostonians."

A copy of the letter, containing this extract, was sent to the minister and is in the State Paper office.

Dear Sir,

The "immediate Cause" is at length struck. The Receipt to our Petition is written in Blood. The impious War of Tyranny against Innocence has commenced in the Neighbourhood of Boston.

We have not yet received any Authentic Account, but I will briefly mention the most material Parts of the Relation, that have reached us.

General Gage having lately received Dispatches from England ordered on Saturday the fifteenth of this Month, that the Grenadiers & Eight Companies of Infantry should proceed from Boston to Concord by Night. Some of the Inhabitants of the Town being informed of it, occasioned Expresses to be sent off to Lexington & Concord, to give Notice of the Troops coming. Upon this Intelligence, about Eleven o'Clock on Monday Night following, those Companies, to the Number of about 1000 Men, landed at Cambridge, on the opposite Side of Charles River, from Boston, and marched in great Silence towards that Water, which is usually crossed in going to Cambridge. Notice of this Movement was immediately conveyed into the Country. The Troops mentioned to have landed at Cambridge, about Nine Miles from Boston, proceeded from thence they marched on the Friday Morning (19th) to Lexington about 12 Miles from Boston. At this Place they found some Provincials exercising. The Commander of the Party ordered them to disperse. They did not. Upon which he ordered his Men to fire upon them, which they did, and killed eight or ten of them. The Provincials returned the Fire, but they had no Ammunition, and did not hurt any one Man, for they had immediately dispersed. The Regulars then proceeded to Concord, where they met with a Number of the Provincials, who fired upon them from Houses & Walls, and killed several of them. The Regulars then gave Fire upon those who were exercising, killed many, and put the rest to Flight. This Victory was gained by the Grenadiers & Eight Companies of Infantry without the Assistance of any other Corps of the Army. Their Numbers, it is said, did not exceed a Thousand, and all the Provincials assembled, it is supposed, amounted to at least, as it is reported, twenty

five or thirty more.

From Lexington the Rebels pursued their March to Concord about 20 Miles from Boston, where they destroyed a small Magazine, and at first beat the Regulars. By this time two or three hundred of the Inhabitants were collected, and an Engagement began. The Regulars were reinforced, and lost a piece of Cannon which they had seized.

General Gage receiving Intelligence of this Engagement of the Murder at Lexington, between 8 & 9 o'Clock on Wednesday Morning sent out a Brigade under the Command of Lord Percy, consisting of the Marines, the Welch Fusileers, the 4th, 30th & 47th Regiments, with 2 Field pieces. The Grenadiers & light Infantry also retreating, met with a Ship drawing to their Relief: but the Place of Meeting is uncertain, supposed to be about 5 or 6 Miles from Boston. The Numbers of the Country People being also increased, a very warm Contest ensued. The Provincials fought as desperate Men. The Regulars bore the Attack a while, but at length broke and retired in the utmost Confusion to a Hill called Bunker's Hill, not far from Charlestown, which Place is situate opposite to Boston on the other side of Charles River, about a Mile from the Hill, a Ship of War, (just now, was stationed to cover the Retreat into Charlestown down to the Water side, in order to pass over to Boston. In the Retreat of this one Mile, it is said, the Regulars lost 12 Officers and 200 private. The Provincials, afraid of the Ships firing on Charlestown and hurting the Town's people, stopt the Pursuit.

On the whole the Accounts say, the Regulars have had about five hundred Men killed, and many are wounded & prisoners. The Advices by Peace & Liberty are positive, that Lord Percy is killed, with a great & general Officers — and also General Haldiman, the next in Command — that all Boston is under Apprehensions of being attacked

with provisions, and the field pieces attending the Reinforcement are taken. It is added, that a party of 300 sent out to Marblehead, are cut off & taken to a man. Several Letters from Boston mention, that the Officers returned there, some of whom are wounded, declare, they never were in hotter Service. The whole of the Fight lasted about 7 Hours. Part of it was seen from the Hills in Boston.

I cannot say, I am convinced of the Truth of all the particulars above-mentioned; tho' all of them are supported by many probabilities. But three Facts, I believe, You may depend on. That this most unnatural and inexpressibly cruel War began with the Butchery of the unarmed Americans at Lexington — that the Provincials, incredible as it may seem to St. James's or St. Stephen's, fought bravely — that the Regulars have been defeated with considerable Slaughter, tho' they behaved resolutely — that a Tory dares not open his Mouth against the Cause of America even at New York — that the Continent is preparing with all imaginable Vigour for vigorous Resistance — and that Freedom or an honorable Death are the only Objects on which the Hearts of all are employed.

What human Policy can divine the Purpose of precipitating us into these shocking Scenes? Why have the been so rashly declared Rebels? Why have Divisions been sent to disarm us? Why Orders to commence Hostilities? Why was not General Gage at least restrained from Atrocities, till the Sense of another Congress could be collected? It was the determined Resolution of one already assembled Delegates for it, that shared every Servant at that Meeting, to attempt bringing the unhappy Dispute to Terms of Reconciliation, safe for the Colonies, and honorable & advantageous for our Mother Country, in whose Prosperity & Glory our Hearts take as large a Share, as any Ministers of State, and from as pure and as generous Motives, to say no more of them.

But what Dispositn of Reconciliation are now left for Men of this
temper have I do, to address our Countrymen? Can we recommend
Reverence for the Monarch or Affection for the Mother Country?
While the Distinction between the Prince and his Ministers,
between the People & their Representatives, wipe out the
Stain of Blood? Or have We the slightest Reason to hope,
that those Ministers & Representatives, will not be
supported throughout the Struggle as they have been thus far? While We
wore of Love, the Sword is opening our Veins, & make them
Bleed to Death, the same Delusion, with all its Train of
Probability, the same Delusion, will take Place with the Nations
& Spain, if not other Powers, Corrupt Jealousy of Britain and Fear
& Shame, fall upon her embarrassed with an exhausting
Civil War, and ensuring or at least despising her Enemies
turn their Arms on these Provinces, which must submit
and at best a frequently convulsed and precarious Independance.
All the ministerial Intelligence concerning us is false. We
are a united, resolved People — are quickly shall be
well armed & disciplined — our Smiths & Powder Mills are at
work Day & Night — our Supplies from foreign Parts
continually arriving. Our Officers, Militia, well exercised
ones, We shall soon have — and the Navy of Britain
cannot stop our whole Trade. Our Towns are but Brick
and Stone & Mortar & Wood. Their Fire-Ships may indeed destroy
They are only the Hairs of your Heads. Shave them over & more,
they will grow again. We can spare them. Not with our
Blood & Liberties. We worship as our Fathers worshipd — Not
Idols which our Hands have made.

I am, Dr Sir,
your sincerely affectionate &
April 29th 1775

Dear Sir Pitt Clerke 1721 May 8. 1775

For several Facts relative to the Transaction of the Hanover Volunteers who marched in Consequence of the Governors Conduct in the Affair of the Powder and the Reprizal made by us I refer you to the public Papers which I expect will give a true Recital of that Matter. If ever it is now said by those who oppose the Measures we took that the Powder belong to the King And it is very remarkable the Governor in his late Proclamation seems to rely upon that as a principal Fact on which he is to be justified. But duly on the 20th of the 4th of William and Mary he was to give his Answer to it, else to prove the contrary. Why does he promise to return it in half an Hour? And again what Powder was he to return or did he take? I answer the Powder mentioned in the Act to wit. that which was provided for the Safety of the Colony and for the Loss of which Williamsburgh was so much alarmed. But I will suppose it was the King's, what Right had any one to expect it in the Magazine built expressly for the Purpose of receiving such Ammunition as was at any Time necessary for our Safety? His Majesty can have no right to convert the Powder or other Conveniencies now necessary for our Defence into Receptacles for Engines of our Destruction, so that the Presumption that the Powder being there it was ours. Twas a Trespass to open that Place for the Reception of any other. Add to this what is contained in his Lordships Answer refer'd to above and no Doubt can remain, but that the Property in the Crown having a Property in it, is a Fiction. For the Sake of the public Tranquility as well as of Justice I chose to be active in making the Reprizal. And having deliberately reflected to the Convention whether any of the Money ought to be returned lest presuming too much might be alledged against me, I chose rather to err with this Tribe an Advocate for the Measures if you think it right. I suppose my Attendance at the Congress may prevent me from being present at the Convention which

perhaps an Attempt may be made to condemn the Measure and misrepresent my Conduct. I trust that the Moderation and Justice of the Proceeding will fully appear from a great Variety of Circumstances. And that my Countrymen will support me in it especially when we consider the Hostilitys to the Northward would have justifyed much greater Spirit which I chose to decline as the Convention might probably soon meet. To the collective Body of my Country I chose submit my Conduct and have to beg you will excuse Trouble I have given you by this long Letter. Only to beg your Attention to the Subject that you may be surprized by some Objection against my Proceedings which I fear will be made by some Gentlemen from below.

Will you be so good as to excuse haste and my Haveing engrossed to you the pen of a young man to transcribe. The few Reasons hinted above are indeed unnecessary to you, whose Judgement is able to inform me. You will readily perceive the absurdity of the Pretence, that the King can have a Right in anything distinct from his People should dangerous Position, that his Protection, (for which we have already paid him) may be withdrawn at Pleasure. If any doubt remains as to the fitness of the Step we have taken, can it lay over till I am heard? I can mention many Facts which I am sure will abundantly warrant what is done. Wishing you every good thing I remain with Sentiments of the highest & most perfect Esteem & Regard

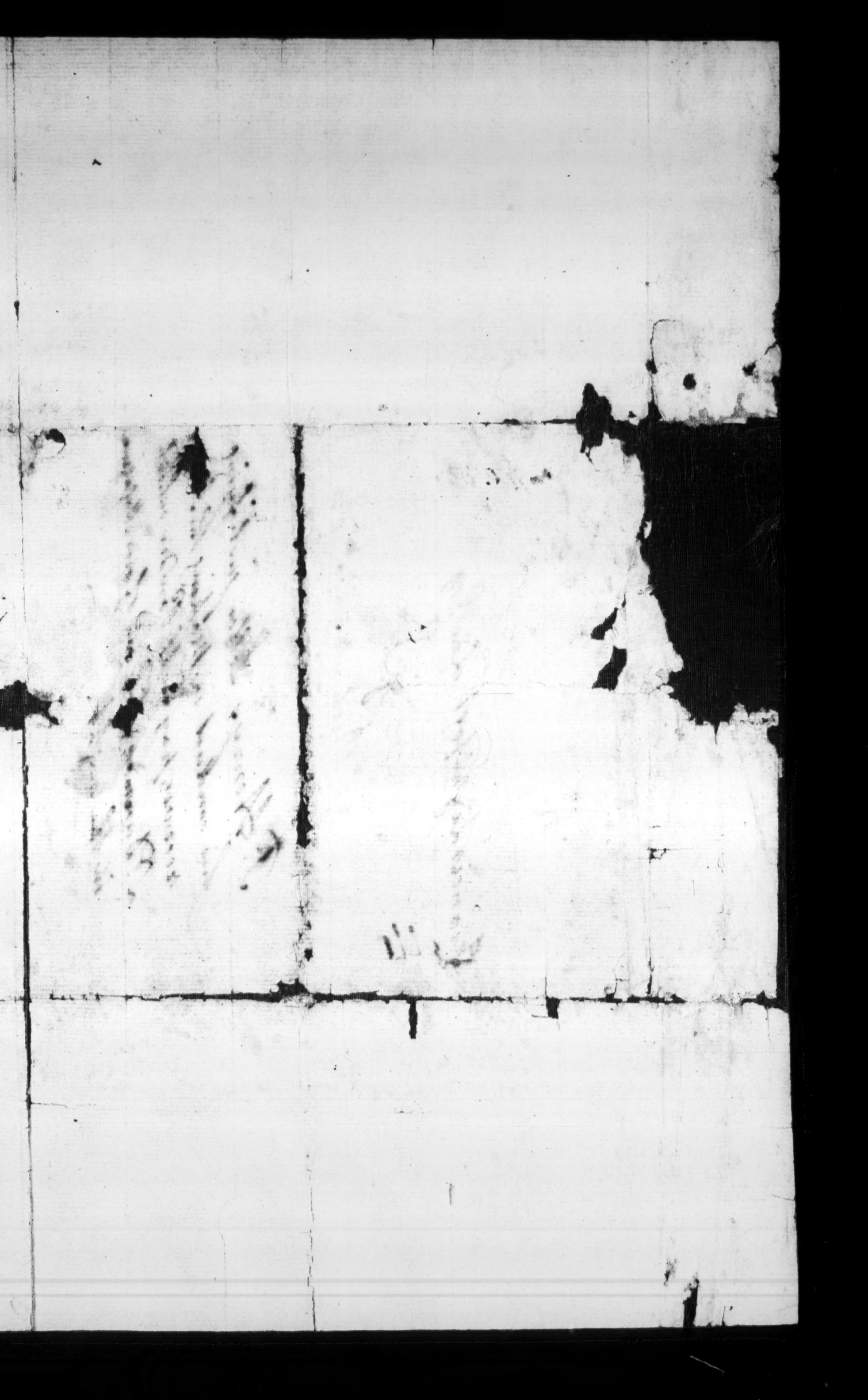
Dear Sir

Your most obed. Servt.

P. Henry Jr.

Hanr. may 8th. 1775

F. L. Lee Esqr.



(Copy Letter)

Robert Henry to
F. L. Lee
May 8th 75

Dear Sir

For several Facts relative to the Transactions of the Hanover Volunteers who marched in consequence of the Governors Conduct in the Affair of the Powder and the Reprizal made by us I refer you to the public Papers which I expect will give a true recital of that Matter. I find it is now said by those who opposed the measures we took that the Powder belonged to the King and it is very remarkable that the Governor in his late Proclamation seems to rely upon that as a principal Fact on which he is to be justified. But truly on the Add[ress] of the City of Williamsburg he and his Answer to it clear[rly] [torn] to prove the contrary. Why does he promise to return it [torn] half an Hour? And again what Powder was he to re-[turn] or did he take? I answer the Powder mentioned in the Ad[dress,] to wit. that which was provided for the Safety of the Colony and for the Loss of which Williamsburgh was so much alarmed. But I ask suppose it was the Kings, what Right had anyone to deposit it in the Magazine built expressly for the Purpose of receiving such Ammunition as was at any Time necessary for our Safety? His Majesty can have no right to convert the Houses or other conveniences necessary for our Defence into Repositorys for Engines of our Destruction so that the Presumption that the Powder being there it was ours. Twas a Trespass to open that Place for the Reception of any other. Add to this what is contained in his Lordships Answer refer'd to above and no Doubt can remain but that the Pretence of the Crown having a Property in it, is a Quibble. For the sake of the public Tranquility as well as of Justice I chose to be active in making the Reprizal. And having designedly refer'd to the Convention whether any of the Money ought to be returned lest presuming too much might be alledged against me I trouble you sir with this to be an Advocate for the Measure if you think it right. I suppose my Attendance at the Congress may prevent me from being present at the Convention wh[en] perhaps an Attempt may be made to condemn the Measure and misrepresent my Conduct. I trust that the Moduation and Justice of the Proceeding will fully appear from a great Variety of Circumstances. And that my Countrymen will support me in it especially when we consider the Hostilitys to the Northward would have justified much

greater Reprizals which I chose to decline as the Convention might probably so soon meet. To the collective Body of my Country I chose [to] submit my Conduct and have to beg you will excuse [torn] Trouble. I have given you by this long Letter I only [torn] to beg your Attention to the Subjects that you may [torn] surprized by some Objections against my Proceedings [torn] I fear will be made by some Gentlemen from below.

Will you be so good as to excuse inaccuracy? Hurry obliges me to use the pen of a young man to transcribe. The few Reasons hinted above are indeed unnecessary to you, whose better Judgment is able to inform me. You will readily perceive the absurdity of the Pretence, that the King can have a property in anything distinct from his people & how dangerous [torn] position, that his protection (for which we have already paid him) may be withdrawn at pleasure. If any Doubt remains as to the fitness of the steps I've taken, can't it lay over til I am heard? I can mention many Facts which I am sure will abundantly warrant what is done. Wishing you every good thing I remain with Sentiments of the Highest & most perfect Esteem & Regard.

Dear Sir
Y.r mo. obed.t Ser.t

P. Henry J.r

Han.r May 8th 1775
F.L. Lee Esq.r

[Addressed:] To Francis Lightfoot Lee Esq.r of Richmond Co.

[Endorsed:] P. Henry's Letter justifying his conduct in Making this [torn] receiver, pay for the Powder which L.d Dunmore [torn] out of our Magazine in the night. -

My Dear Sir. Cambridge May. 16. 1775.

Every Thing here continues as at the Time of my Writing to you a short Time ago, our military Operations go on in a very spirited Manner, Gen: Gage had a Reinforcement of about 600 Marines the day before Yesterday, but this gives very little Concern here, it is not expected that he will sally out of Boston at present & if he does he will but gratify thousands who impatiently wait to avenge the Blood of their murdered Countrymen. The attempt he has made to throw the Odium of the first Commencement of Hostilities on the people here has operated very much to his Disadvantage, as so many credible People were Eye Witnesses of the whole Affair whose Testimonies are justly supposed of infinitely greater Weight than ~~any~~ any Thing he has or can bring in Support of his Assertion, my private Opinion is that he is really deceived in this Matter & is led by his Officers and some other of the most abandoned Villains on Earth who are Natives of this Country and are now shut up with him in Boston / to believe that our People actually began the Firing, but my Opinion is only for myself, most people are satisfied not only that he knows that the Regulars began the Fire, but also that he gave his Orders to the Commanding Officer to do it, thus by attempting to clear the Troops from what every one is sure they were guilty of, he has brought on strong Suspicion that he himself is guilty of having preconcerted the Mischief done by them. — indeed his very unmanly Conduct, relative to the People of Boston in detaining many of them, and contriving new Excuses for delaying their Removal after they had given up their fire Arms, upon a Promise of being suffered to leave the Town and carry with them their Effects, has much lessened his Character and confirmed former Suspicions.

The Continental Congress is now sitting, I suppose before

before I hear from you again, a new form of Government will be established in this Colony, Great Britain must now make the best she can of America, the folly of her Ministers have brought her into this Situation, if she has strength sufficient even to depopulate the Colonies, she has not strength sufficient to subjugate them, however we can get without injuring ourselves, offer much to her — the great National Advantages derived from the Colonies may I hope yet be reaped by her from us, — the Plan for enslaving us, if it had succeeded, would only have put it in the Power of Administration to have provided for a Number of their worthless Dependants, whilst the Nation was deprived of the most essential Benefits which might have arisen from us by Commerce, and the Taxes raised in America would instead of easing the Mother Country of her Burdens, only have been employed to bring her into Bondage. — I cannot precisely tell you what will become of General Gage, I imagine it least he will be kept closely shut up in Boston; perhaps you will very soon hear of something further, One thing I can assure you has very great Weight with us, We fear if we push this Matter as far as we think we are able, to the Destruction of the Troops & Ships of War, we shall expose Great Britain to those Invasions from foreign Powers which we suppose it will be difficult for her to repel, in fact you must have a Change of Men and Measures or be ruined. The truly noble Richmond, Rockingham, Chatham, Shelburne and with other Noble Lords, and the virtuous and sensible Minority in the House of Commons, must take the Lead, the Confidence we have in them will go a great Way but I must tell you that those Terms which would readily have been accepted before your Countrymen were murdered & we in consequence thereof compelled to take Arms I will not do now, —

Every thing in my Power to serve the united Interests of Great Britain and her Colonies shall be done, —

and I pray that you your Brother & M.r Sayer (to whom I beg you would make my most respectfull Compliments) would write fully, freely & speedely to me, and let me know likewise what our great & good Friends in the Houses of Lords & Commons think expedient & practicable to be done. —

God forbid that the Nation should be so infatuated as to do any thing further to irritate the Colonies, if they should the Colonies will sooner throw themselves into the Arms of any other Power on Earth, than ever consent to an Accommodation with Great Britain; that Patience which I have frequently told you would ~~be~~ at last be exhausted, is no longer to be expected from us. —
Danger & War are become pleading & injured Virtue is now armed to avenge herself. — —

I am my Dear Sir

Your most Hble & Hum.e Serv.t

Jas Warren

P. S. Please to let M.r Sayer & Sheriff Lee know that I shall write to them by the first opportunity. — This will be handed you by my Good Friend M.r Barrell who will give you a more particular Account of the Situation of our Publick Affairs. —

Dear Brother

Philadelphia 21st May 17 5

An Express is just arrived he
from Williamsbr[illegible] informing of the Assembly be[illegible]
called to the [illegible] Fame which carries our Speak
away. We suppo[illegible] the design is chiefly to lay [illegible] the
conciliatory pla[illegible] before the house. Tis most
that if this is done you should, after mature
proper spirited observations on the folly, ~~and~~ injus
and ~~[illegible]~~ insidiousness of the proposition, refer him to the unanimous
opinion of N. America in Congress. Many and howe
are the reasons that render it necessary you sh[illegible]
fully approve in Gen. Assembly of the proceedings of
last Continental Congress of this present appointment
and of your Delegates. Ministry and their Tools have
constantly informed the Nation that the Provincial
Conventions were factious meetings, that [illegible] pro
were not the sense of the people, and that the Conventi
-nal Assemblies as they convened. The two would not be of
such opinion. To prevent a contradiction of this they have
prevented the meeting of Assemblies unless when they had some
special wicked purpose to answer. The Assemblies that have
been allowed to meet, all except New York, have reprobated
this Ministerial lye, and have resolved as above mentioned.
For heavens sake avoid compliments, except to the Soldiery,
on the Indian expedition last summer. Nothing has given
more concern and disgust to these northern Colonies than
our unhappy vote of that sort in last Convention. Yesterday,
one of the first Men on the Continent for wisdom sound
judgment, good information and integrity [illegible] said to
me "I was much grieved, and concerned for the honor
and good sense of Virginia, when I saw that ill founded
ill judged compliment." Perhaps the scheme is to get
another occasion to [illegible] and your approbation of another

ruinously expensive extension on the frontiers. A few scalp-
-ing Indians will never be wanting to commit occasional acts
for the encouragement of true and exploring schemes but the
Land hunter ought to reconsider his application upon [illegible]
destructive than £100 000 charge to the public annually. Never
encourage by complimenting the last, a second Lease among
the Indians and Frontier men. The Continent looks with
jealous eyes on the visits of Governors to such places as this
is. We know the [illegible] Ministry to send Canadian
and Indians down upon us. For this reason the Provincial
Troops of Connecticut & Massachusetts have [illegible] by
a brave coup de Main possession of the Forts at Ticonderoga
& Crown Point. In the former they got 200 pieces of large Cannon
some field pieces, Swivels, Powder &c. The Congress have directed
N. York, Connecticut & Massachusetts to remove their Troops &c to
the South end of Lake George and take about 1000 there to
[illegible] the communication and protect the Canadian & Indian
forces into their Colonies. The taking of Ticonderoga Cost us
cost G. Britain many thousand Lives and an immense expence
but now it has been taken from them [illegible] by the bravery and enterprize of a few Provincials and at a
very small expence. There never was a more total revolution
at any place than at New York. The Tories have been obliged
to fly, the Province is arming and the Governor dares
not call his prostituted Assembly to receive the foolish
plan. Two Delancies, Watts, Cooper, Rivington, Col. Pritchard
the rest of the Tory leaders are fled some to England and
some to [illegible] places in the Country where they are not known.
The Congress have advised the Yorkers to make provision for
carrying their Women & Children into the Country and to remove
their [illegible] stores before the arrival of Troops, these, whom they are
to suffer them to encamp, or commit with impunity any

hostilities against the people there [illegible] from
Boston make the loss of Regulars in killed wounded & missing
1000 Men. The Provincial Colonists sitting. 10 000 Men
now encamped before the Town between Dorchester and the Country
here is no intercourse. G. Gage refuses to let the people out
in consequence of which their distress presently must be
very great indeed. The Emerging Army keep the one Besieged
in a constant alarm, so that 'tis said, they rest neither Night
nor day. Every day is expected to bring 2000 Men more from
Ireland, and seven Regiments to N. York where they say
they are informed Men in Arms would be well received, but now
behold they come to a Country universally hostile and in Arms
to receive them. Connecticut has 12 000 Men in Arms the
Colony a good many, and Rhode Island at least 8000. There
are 2000 in this City well armed and disciplined Men. In
short every Colony this way is well prepared for War and
appear to be secure against any Force likely to be sent
against them. It would seem as if the Northern Colonies
were alone vulnerable at present, and this should be remedied
as soon as possible. We are just informed that the Dutch have
imported a large quantity of powder into Halifax and that two
English Men of War are laying off the Island to prevent
the exportation to N. America - That a large quantity is also
landed at Cape Francois where no guard is yet placed.
Jos Treasurer should be prevailed with to employ a Mr
Goodrich in Norfolk, a famous Contraband Man,
to send immediately some swift sailing Pilot Boats for
20 or 30 000 weight to supply the Counties where many
will no doubt be collected before the powder arrives.
I hope Capt. Brown is near full by this time and I
suppose Mr Lee chartered him, as well as Dutton, to
arrived in York River - You will have time to load
three Vessels as it is not now probable that the Congress
will stop the Exports sooner than the 10th of September,
except provision to the British Fishery on the Banks
of Newfoundland. "It seems the Bill for restraining

the Trade of the Colonies would be known generally at one time after its arrival in N. America — So that on this point the whole power of the Legislature is given to Ministry, & they will depend on them when the Act shall arrive how soon they may send it when a meeting of Parliament" Mr. Brown should be immediately informed that there is no prospect of the exportation being stopt, that he may act on full knowledge in both buying or not Tobacco. "We find by the late accounts that Ministry will be more puzzled than they imagine to accomplish their detestable purposes against us. Mr. Lee writes the 26 March, that the embargement from England has been delayed by the impossibility of getting Seamen for the Ships, but he adds, Let not this delay your vigorous efforts for defence — From Ireland we learn, that the People there have interposed to prevent the embargement, and that a contest has happened in which several lives were lost on both sides. The other day G. Gage (receiving that all the provincial Troops, except 1500 were retired to sign an association re-
-paired from them at some distance from the Encampment) marched with his whole force out of Boston, but seeing the 1500 Provincials drawn up in order of Battle, and disliking their countenance, he returned within his lines — A Man of War Tender at Rhode Island safely secured a Vessel loaded with provisions for the Army at Boston and the Country People in Boats attacked and took both the provision Vessel and the Tender, having wounded the Lieutenant of the Ship of War and taken his Men prisoners and on board carried Captives into the Country. Thus you see our infant Struggles on the Water are not unsuccessful! You have all the news of this place — I am hurried, as I doubt not you will be tired, with the length of this Letter — Let me know by every Post how you go on & what Measures are the objects of your deliberations — Remember me to all Friends and particularly to Mr. Treasurer,

Yours &c

Richard Henry Lee

R. L. Lee Esq.r

My Dear Sir

London 24 May 1775

Yesterday I had the Honour of being chosen Alderman for one of the most respectable Wards in the City of London. This Post is for Life, Honourable & attended with very little expence. The Paper will show you the rest. The Scotch we understand are buying up all the Tob.o in the Country, surely no one will trust them without the Cash, for their bills are dangerous — Let them get your property into their hands & then see what will be the e

Let M.r Browne know all the above — urge & assist as much as you can to procure payments & remittances — those who won't pay, get from them Bonds & security if you can

God Bless you all & believe me most affectionately & sincerely Yours for ever — William Lee

I trust America will be steady & unanimous in support of her Liberty, let the consequence be what it will. A little suffering & endurance for a year or two must be expected, but with fortitude & perseverance the issue will certainly be successful to you. Even loss of Life, is in my mind, a less Evil, than loss of Liberty. — (Do you know one John Hopkinson

If any he must be a notorious Sharper — he is getting all

the Planters in Essex to draw bills on me at sight. This Pitiful plan is no doubt to injure me if he can, therefore it will be proper to stop him in her Carreer. A Bill this day appeared on me at sight pay[e] to himself supposed to be drawn by James Bray. It is protested for want of advice because I do not believe the signature to be the hand writing of James Bray.

It appears to me that the Bill is both written & signed by John Hopkins himself. What a noble pair Sam.[l] & Johnny

(N°73)

R. H. Lee Esq.

My Dear Sr.

London 24 May. 1775.

I have no doubt of your being pleased wth the information contained in the inclosed paper, of my being yester-day elected Alderman of one of the most respectable Wards in the City of London. This post is for Life, very honourable & attended with little or no extra expence, however it cannot be a disadvantage to appear with more dignity than I have hitherto done or indeed than my present finances will properly admit of, but this must depend on future contingencies, for I am resolved never to embarrass myself so as to be under the Controul, of great, rich, or wicked men; but if any mercantile busines sh^d increase, which I sh^d suppose very probable, I shall act accordingly, both for my own & the Interest of Virginia. —— I wrote you fully on business the other day by this opp^y I sent a multitude of Papers &c. You must in America have taken a decided line of Conduct by this time, as the Ministerial plan for y^r destruction will be fully before the Continental Congress. I have Confidence in your Virtue & being fully satisfied of your ability to succeed in the contest for support of your Liberties, my mind is totally at ease; especially too, as I am sure y^r friends here ~~Friends~~ are very numerous & firm: tho' at present a little Lethargic. The first blow will rouse them, as well as the French & Spaniards. Heaven bless you all. Farewell. William

1775

Plate 5[illegible]
Dec[illegible] 24 1775

(1773)

Mr Lee
May 24th 1775

Richard Henry Lee Esqr
Chantilly
Stafford
Virginia

Capt. Montgomery

Wm Lee Enclo
May 75
about his being
chosen Alderman
Politics —

5

Dr. Sir, Philadelphia 20 May 75

The friends of virtuous liberty in New York have certainly effected important changes in the political system of that flourishing City. I congratulate you Sir and your worthy Associates on this happy revolution. It is most certain that a profligate Ministry have greatly relied on the assistance of your fine fertile Province for carrying

into execution then could
system. A system by which
existing millions
millions, and ~~Ingrafted~~ yet
unborn are to be plunged into
the ~~darkness~~ abyss of slavery, and ~~[illegible]~~
~~[illegible]~~ of consequence deprived of every
~~[illegible]~~ glorious distinction that marks
the Man from the Brute. But happily for the cause of
humanity, the Colonies are now united, and may bid defiance
to Tyranny and its infamous Abettors. You will see that
Mr. Rivingtons case is involved in all of a similar
nature which are to be determined on by the Colony
Conventions where the offence is committed. I am sorry, for
the honor of human nature, that this Man should have so
much debased himself, in support of a cause the most
detestable that ever disgraced Mankind. But he repents,
and should be forgiven; it is not yet too late to exert
his powers in defence of the Liberty and just rights
of his Country

So much inquired Country
I wish you happy & in
assure you that I am, with
singular esteem, Sir your
friend and Countryman

Rich'd Henry Lee

To be forwarded by
Mr Hamilton

Coll. S. Sh. (No. 74) 6 Letters

Dear Sir. Lynston Hall May 25th: 1775.

My Son George has a Mind to spend some Days in Philadelphia, while the Congress is sitting; and as He has been yet very little in the World, & young Fellows are too apt to fall into bad Company, in a Place where they have no Acquaintance, I must presume to Sue on your Friendship as to recommend him to your Notice and Advice; for which I am sure He will be thankful.

We hear nothing here from the Congress: I presume their Deliberations are (as they ought to be) a profound Secret. I hope

I am the

the provisions, Stores & Ammunition next winter,
when the Ships of War can't cruise upon our
Coasts, as well as the means of laying in good
Magazines of provisions &c. to the north-
ward, will be properly attended to.

I could almost wish that we paid the
Ministry the Compliment of stopping our
Exports to Great Britain & the West Indies
at the same time their restraining Bills
takes place, that our Operations might
have a fair start with theirs, & our
Measures have the Appearance of Reprizal.

I think you are happy in having Doctr.
Franklin at the Congress; as I imagine no
Man better knows the Intentions of the
Ministry.

Ministry, the Temper of the Nation, & the Interest of the Minority.

The Ship you expected from your Brother into York River has been arrived about a Fortnight; the Adventure, I believe, will sail next week; She has been detained a good deal by the Scarcity of Craft. My Tobacco (ninety of them in one Ware-house) were all ready before the Ship came out of Rappahannock, and in order to get her all the Dispatch in my Power (hearing the Capt. could not engage sufficient Craft) I employ'd a Craft myself to carry sixty Hhds. on board. I have wrote by two of these different Vessels for Insurance

Mr 76

(No 288.)

Insurance at 15 p. Ct. & 10 p. Ct. but if you have an opportunity of writing to Gr. Brother from Philadelphia, I should be glad to have the Order repeated.

I most sincerely wish you Health & Happiness, and am, D.r Sir,

Your affect.e & obl.d Serv.t

G. Mason

1775

No. 286

Richard Henry Lee Esq.r

My Lord May 1775

Permit the Delegates of the People of twelve United Colonies, to pay your Lordships and the Respected body of which you are Head, the just tribute of gratitude and thanks for the virtuous and unconstitutional regard you have shown to the violated rights of a free people. The City of London, my Lord, having in all ages approved herself the patron of Liberty and the support of just government, against lawless tyrannys usurpation; cannot fail to make us deeply sensible of the mighty aid our cause receives from such consideration. A cause my Lord worthy the support of the first City in the world, as it involves the fate of a great Continent, and bids fair to shake the foundations of a flourishing, and until lately, a happy empire.

North America My Lord wishes most ardently for a lasting connection with G. Britain on terms of just and equal Liberty, but rather than a precarious one, less than which a generous mind would not offer, nor brave and free ones be willing to receive. A cruel war has at length been waged against us and whilst we prepare to defend ourselves like the Descendants of Britons, we still hope that the mediation of wise and good Citizens, will at length prevail on our Sovereign to adopt such constitutional principles, as may restore peace harmony and union to an oppressed and divided Empire.

We have the honor &c.

70

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2000 — 2500 — 2875

100 — 125 — 2.5

2000 — 2500 — 2875

Sho.

Sho.

Sho.

To the people of Great Britain from the Delegates appointed by the several English Colonies of New Hampshire Massachusetts Bay Rhode Island and Providence plantations Connecticut New York New Jersey Pennsylvania the Lower Counties on Delaware Maryland Virginia North Carolina South Carolina and the Parish of St. Johns in Georgia to meet in Philadelphia May 1775

It is with the deepest concern that we find ourselves compelled by the persevering and increased violence of administration again to appeal to your reason and justice upon a subject of the last importance to the safety, happiness and welfare of the British empire. It is well known that the original cause of our present unhappy difference is the falsely assumed right and practice of Parliament, to raise revenue on the subject in America, contrary to the clearest principles of justice and the English constitution, which exempt from payment of Tax, Tallage, Aid or other like charge not set by common consent. That British America is not represented in the British Parliament, and consequently, its consent not involved in the Acts of that Assembly, is too true to admit of doubt, too certain to be contested. But to obviate this argument Administration say, many in England are not represented, and yet they are bound by Acts of the British Parliament; concluding that because the representation of England is imperfect therefore the people of America must not be represented at all, and by a fallacious kind of logic, reasoning from the existence to the infinite extention of evil.

In prosecution of this new scheme of taxation a system of statutes and regulations has taken place, by which the trial by jury is abolished; the oppressive powers of excise extended to all cases of revenue; the sanctuary of private houses exposed to violation at the pleasure of every Officer and Servant of the customs; the

dispensation of justice corrupted by making the Judges totally depen-
=dant on the Crown; life and liberty rendered precarious by suppos'd
Offenders being liable to be transported over the Ocean to be tried for
treason or felony, whereby the condemnation of the most innocent
may follow from distance, want of evidence, money, and friends;
the profligate encouraged to shed the blood of the people by a
mode of trial offering indemnity to the murderer; the Capital
of one Colony condemned without being heard to most unequal
punishment, involving with unexampled rigor the innocent
and the guilty in the same undistinguished ruin; that great
palladium of English liberty the Habeas Corpus Act suspended;
Charter'd rights taken away without forfeiture proved, and a
new form of government established to prevent legal efforts
against the despotism of wicked rulers; the ancient limits of
Canada extended over immense regions bordering on the frontiers
of all the Colonies and Arbitrary government created there, as
well by immediate exertions as by future efforts to banish Liberty
with all its attendant virtues from this great Continent; and
finally a fleet and Army sent to execute these oppressive
edicts. In this state of unparalleled abuse the people of
America, by their Representatives in Congress Septem.r 1774
presented a petition to his Majesty so full of duty, loyalty, and
affection; so full of humble desires of peace liberty and safety as
malice itself could not except against. The world will judge,
what more could be done on this side the Atlantic to soften
the rigor of authority and appease the rage of despotic Ministers,
unless we had tamely surrendered our lives Liberty, and
property into the hands of Administration, thereby rendering
ourselves unworthy of the British Ancestry, and undeserving
the rights of men, by betraying the dignity of human nature.
The duty of a British Minister should lead him to protect the just
rights of the subject in every part of the Empire, but the present
Administration at variance with freedom in every Clime, equal foe
to British and American rights, under the fatal guidance of a

charcter all conmily with the glorious constitution of England. that work
of age and admiration of surrounding nations; instead of redressing
grievances of such magnitude, and so justly complained against,
proceed to bitter declarations of rebellion, determination to subdue
by force, and increasing Armies in North America have at length
drawn the Sword of violence to ravage this Country, burn houses,
and destroy his Majesties faithful American subjects. When
Ministry charge millions of people with cowardice, faction and
rebellion, it necessarily leads to reflect how extensive
must be the abuse, and how different the present from former
administrations, which has restored so wonderful a change in
a whole nation, acknowledged frequently by the parent state,
to be a brave, loyal, and useful people. Equally unjust is the
charge of refusing to support civil government and the adminis-
-tration of justice, and denying contribution to the necessary
expence of our protection and defence. We have already declared
"That such provision has been, and will be made for defraying
the two first articles, as has been and shall be judged, by the legis-
-latures of the several colonies, just and suitable to their respec-
-tive circumstances" And the journals of Parliament shew that
in time of war, our aids have been admitted to transcend
our abilities. In times of peace justice and magnanimity will be
content with the immense profits derived from our confined
commerce, establishing so grievous a monopoly of our imports,
and of our great staple commodities of exportation, as to impoverish
us in proportion as it enriches Great Britain. A Monopoly that
annually fixes so large a ballance against those Colonies, as to
preclude, without great oppression the payment of civil revenue,
added to the necessary support of our respective civil establishments,
and other large contingent expences.

The

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The injurious and unaccommodating intentions of our Inveterate
enemies are fully manifested by a plan of conciliation, (so it is called)
so inconsistent with its avowed design, as to be incapable of deceiving
the most unthinking; for when the Americans, upon constitutional
ground, claim a right of being concerned in the disposal of their
own property; Administration after various and violent attempts
to destroy this claim, propose to conciliate, by acclaiming a power of
controuling both the sum and its application; leaving the
injured American the wretched choice of payment, or of
punishment in case of refusal. Unprejudiced Men will
determine whether this plan is intended to conciliate, or by
insulting the understanding to convert dissatisfaction into
despair. It appears by the conduct of Administration upon our
humble petition, for peace presented unto his Majesty, and the
demands they make; that the design which hath for some time
been carried on to alter the frame and constitution of these
Colonies, is now come to ripeness; and the Combiners of it con-
-ceive themselves arrived to that condition of strength, that
they shall be able to put it into present execution. For what
else can be signified by an unprovoked declaration of rebellion
by the Commander of the British forces, after having converted the
large and flourishing Town of Boston into a Military Garrison
marching into the Country, slaughtering the inhabitants, burning
their houses, and ravaging all before him? Necessity hath
therefore brought on this Congress and imposed it with the
power of acting with more vigor and resolution than for-
-mer Congresses had done, nor do the principles of Self
preservation longer permit us to neglect providing a proper
defence to prevent the pernicious practices of wicked
men and evil Counsellors, alike enemies to the religion,
laws, rights, and liberties of England and America. How
necessary this was to be done, is sufficiently manifest from
the designs and attempts of the despotic Governor of

Canada

Canada to march an army of Canadians and Savages into these Colonies. Great cause therefore hath all good men to bless God, who put it into the heads and hearts of our Countrymen to possess themselves of the fortresses of Ticonderoga and Crown Point, and to make themselves masters of those Lakes that cover the frontiers of many Colonies, and secure them from such cruel and wicked designs. For were these bad Ministers to succeed in their evil intentions and shut North America in slavery, it is not difficult to foresee with what ease they might afterwards master the liberties of Great Britain. In this state of extreme danger to the British Empire, we have once more implored our common Sovereign to save the whole from the meditated ruin of his Ministers, and by redressing the unmerited grievances of his faithful American Subjects, restore peace to his afflicted people. We call God to witness, that it is the earnest wish of our hearts to be firmly united with you on the broad basis of civil and religious liberty equally extended to all the subjects of this great empire. And we earnestly entreat your Lordships, that aid may be interposed to calm the distractions, and quiet the apprehensions, by removing the grievances of British America. We shall then with joy behold the return of those halcyon days, when peace, happiness, and flourishing Commerce, established the glory, strength, and safety of the British empire.

Mr. Searle
Mr. Lovell
Dr. Thaxter
Mr. Lawrence
Mr. Cushing
Mr. Gerry
Genl. Warren
Mr. Adams
Mr. Lee

2820
3308
5408

1 bushel for 20
weight of bushels
1 Ear
2 bushels for
45 lb. of Tallow
& 8 bushels
for £25 a
bushel —

Cambridge, 18 Jan.
1776

Journal from Aug. 19th
to Jan. 18th 1776
in Cambridge Camp

Honour'd Sir, Eastown, June 1st, 1775.

An ancient, and accounted, a long-headed man in these parts, has dropt some hints devising a scheme of reconciliation between the Colonies and Mother Country, which I think worthy of notice; and I am persuaded your zeal for a reconciliation is such, that you will lend an ear to healing propositions, let it come from what quarter it may, otherwise, you would be unworthy of that eminence of character, which you profess, for republican candour of sentiment. He observed, - suppose the Congress were to offer as much to the Crown, as all the duties amount to, by a proper estimate, meaning all such duties, which we agree they have a right to lay as regulators of trade, and then exempt from all imposition on the crown, called revenue; it might be easily assessed on each Province, by having recourse to their books of entry, and making at the same time an allowance for what are run, which is thought to be, nearly, as much again; - and besides this, to offer a number of forces, well disciplined, in case of requisition, as was the case in the two last wars; - so many thousands or hundreds, from each Province, according to their importance, and find, victual, pay & cloath the same; some or all, as best judged of

by the wisdom of the Congress; and the scene to continue, for a certain season, or during the expedition, as was the case on the attack last War, upon Carthagenia and the Havannah: At least, the most frenious endeavours ought to be used, in order, some way, or other to effect an accommodation, considering what lamentable confusion & distress must attend the quarrel if continued any space of time, and that of aiming at independency at present, affords the most frightful of all affects, whilst the Mother Country has such power over the ocean.

So hoping that these hints may have their due weight, tho' communicated unknown by the old Gentleman that dropt them; at the same time not doubting, every salutary scheme will be thought of, by yourselves, yet, that nothing may escape commemoration, which seems of a beneficial nature, in order, some how to effect a speedy reconciliation; I hope you will not be offended at the contents hereof — from Sir,

your unknown friend,

& humble servant,

Philopatria.

P.S. I had like to have forgot the venerable sage, would have insisted that all the obnoxious acts of Parliament should be repealed at the same time that the above mentioned offers were made, the one to be the inseparable condition of repealing the other, for in the space of ten, fifteen or twenty years as the provinces flourish, & trade increases, an additional quantity of both ~~in~~ money and troops may be proffered, according to pressing requisitions from home, but still the mode of raising as well as the quantity also, to be wholly left in the power of the different Assembly's.

And to confess the truth, the within letter on account of your reputed eloquence in the Congress I direct to you, as it is the more likely you will tenderly have a due influence on that august Assembly, altho you are under no but may still persue your own opinion.

Philopatris letters
1st June 1775

Col. Richard Henry Lee

Philopatris

From

[illegible] (No 76)

New York, June 5th 1775

Sir

While you are anxiously engazed to preserve the Rights of your Country, I cannot intertain the least doubt, but you will excuse this Address, when I assure you, I am induced to it from a sincere desire to promote the Common cause of America in this City. The Delegates of this Colony who are, In trade, can inform you, have no private interest in the Subject on which I now solicit you. Since the Commencement of the Non importation in 1768, to the dissolution of the last Continental Congress, the Tea Traders to Holland, were not only Countenanced, but greatly Stimulated by the Friends of Liberty, to import that Article, to enable us to defeat the Ministerial project of Subjecting us to the payment of the duty on Tea impor[illegible] from Great Britain, before the Congress was Convened, or any Act or Advice from them was announced to the Publick, large orders were sent for this Commodity and a very Considerable Quantity was Imported. When their proceedings came out, those Traders immediately Countermanded their Orders, Altho' they were not directed to do it, Previous to this, there was a great Quantity arrived, & then on its passage, as it was some time before those Orders had effect, so that when the Non-Consumption of it took place, there remained Unsold near the Value of £100,000 Currency. Many of the proprietors of this Article, have the greater part of their fortunes tied up in it, and more than one of them to the Amount of £7,000: and many of the Sufferers are Zealous Friends to the Country. They Complain, that no order, or advice was given to them, before the dissolution of the Congress, to Restain or Countermand their Orders, and yet they are depriv'd of disposing and Consoming an Article, which they Imported upon the Faith of Publick encouragement: and they Conceive their Case Singularly hard, as the Merchants Trading to Great Britain are allowed, (altho' they were directed to Countermand their Orders,) to dispose of the Goods imported within the time limited by the Congress, & to the Consumption of the Tea on Hand, will not affect the Manufactores of Great Britain or Ireland, so as to engage them in our favor, or induce the Ministry to redress our Grievances: the proprietors think they might be at Liberty, without any Injury to the Common Cause, to Vend what is unsold: Especially when the British & Irish Traders are allowed this privilidge, even with such Goods as Materially

Concerns

Concerns the Trade of those Countrys. Notwithstanding those hardships and
Claims, from attached to the union of the Colonies, and the respect they bore to
the last Congress, they chearfully submitted to close their Sales on the first
of March, as the Association directs; relying on the Justice & Wisdom of the
Next Congress to give them relief. If I might be permitted as a Citizen of
New York, fully acquainted with the State of this Matter, and as a friend to the
present interesting Struggle, to give my Opinion, it would be, that the
Congress give them Liberty to dispose of what they have on hand. I am confident
such a resolution would tend to Establish, rather than to diminish, the power of
the Congress in this City. I could adduce many reasons in Support of this
Opinion, but shall not trespass any longer on your Patience, than while I
Mention two Following:- part These Gentlemen are great Adventurers, who would
have risqued a Considerable of this property in importing Arms & Ammunition
but were prevented by their having so great a part of their Capitals unfortu-
nately tied up; and they did not think it prudent to risque any other part of their
property, when they were so much Embarrass'd in their Affairs, by the State of
their Tea; which they were in danger of loosing. Nor will they be enabled
to engage in the Importation of those Articles for some time, even if they should
be indemnified by the Public, for the loss of it, as it will be some time before
it can take place. Upon the whole of this Matter, Sir, permit me to say,
I think it is not a time for us to risk £100,000, when we shall have occasion to make the most prudent use of our Common Stock, nor to
discourage or impede the Importation of Ammunition, which is already
attended with very great risque, and especially when so much depends upon
being possessed of a sufficient Quantity of that Necessary Article. I hope you
will excuse the Liberty of this Communication, as my Sole motive in doing
it, is a regard to that Cause, which I am persuaded you have above all
Earthly Considerations most at Heart. I am

Sir

Respectfully

Your very Obl. Servt.

Alexr. McDougall

Richard Henery Lee Esquire.

Dear Sir, Philadelphia 29th June 1775

Nothing material has occurred since you left this place, except the imperfect accounts we have of the Charlestown battle, which upon the whole seems to have nothing unfavorable to our great cause, but the loss of Dr Warren — To an infant Country, it is loss indeed, to be deprived of wise, virtuous, and brave Citizens. I hope however, still to hear, that our Enemies have lost character very useful to them. We received the account of this engagement, late on Saturday evening last, and a few of us immediately applied to, and prevailed with the Committee of this City, to dispatch good quarter casks of powder to the Camp, which I hope will arrive safe and in good time —

We are this day informed in Congress that the

six Nations and Canada Indians are firmly dis=
=posed to observe a strict neicutrality, and I think
we shall endeavor to cultivate their friendship.
The Congress has been engaged these two days about
the mutiny and military regulations, and at last, we
shall adopt those of Massachusetts with very few
alterations. You will see that we have again taken
up the business of entering Canada, and have left
the propriety of it to Gener. Schuyler. If it can be
done, in a manner agreeable to the Canadians, it
will certainly shut the door against dangerous
tampering with the Indians on all our Western
frontiers. Nothing has yet been done about a
Military Hospital, and I suppose we shall wait
for your return of the state of the Army — Dr.
Shippen says that three young Gentlemen here,
perfectly competent, will be ready when called
on, to serve in the capacity of Surgeons.
I have only to assure you, that it will always
make me happy to hear from you, and that

I am, with great regard, dear Sir. Your Affect.
and obedient Servant

Richard Henry Lee

Dear Sir,

The enclosed will introduce you
to some of my friends in America

I am Dear Sir,

your affectionate friend

[redacted]

The Bearer Mr Hutchinson
a worthy young Gentleman
of this place, engages you
a letter of that nature
I suggested to him.

Mr Cadwallader Colden

July 7th 1765

As several copies of the Declaration are going by this ship with several Errors in them, it may be better to have the enclosed put first into the Press

Gentlemen

The perseverance of the British Ministry in their unjust and cruel system of colony administration has occasioned the meeting of this Congress. We have again appealed to the justice of our sovereign for protection against the destruction which his ministers meditate for his American subjects.

This petition to his Majesty you will please Gentlemen to present to the King with all convenient expedition after which we desire it may be given to the Public. We likewise send you our second application to the equity and interest of our fellow subjects in Great Britain, and also a declaration setting forth the causes of our taking up arms, both which we wish may be immediately put to press and communicated as universally as possible.

The Congress entertain the highest sense of the wise and worthy interposition of the Lord Mayor and Livery of London in favour of injured America. They have expressed this their sense in a letter to his Lordship and the Livery which we desire may be presented in the manner most agreable to that respectable body.

You will oblige us Gentlemen by giving the most early information to Congress and to the Speaker of our respective Assemblies of your proceedings in this business, and such further intelligence as you may judge to be of importance to America in this great contest.

We are with great regard

Gentlemen

Your most obedient

and very humble servants

By order of the Congress

John Hancock President

Philadelphia
July 8. 1775

To

The Hon.ble Richard Penn, William Bollan, Arthur Lee
Edmund Burke Esq.rs & ——— Garth Esq.r

Mr Lee transmits herewith a copy of an humble Petition, from the Continental Congress, in America, to the King, which, with Lord Dartmouth's permission, he begs leave to present to his Majesty.

No 2, Garden Court middle Temple. Augst 28. 1775

To the Right Honble the Earl of Dartmouth
Secretary of State for America.

An Answer having been refused to this Petition; Mr Lee & Mr Penn desired it to be printed in the publick Papers, with this advertisement prefixed. — The following is a true Copy of the Petition from the General Congress in America to his Majesty which was delivered to Lord Dartmouth the first of this month, & to which his said no Answer would be given

Sept. 4th 1775 Signed Arthur Lee
Richard Penn

Camp at Cambridge July 10th 1775

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Dear Sir

I was exceeding glad to receive a Letter from you, as I always shall be when ever it is convenient, though perhaps my hurry, this busy time as matters are drawn a little out of the Chaos they appear'd at present, will not suffer me to write you such full and satisfactory answers, or give such clear, and precise accts of our situation & views, as I could wish, or you might expect. —

After a journey, a good deal retarded, principally by the desire the different Townships through which I travell'd expres'd of shewing respect to the Genl of your armies, I arrived here on this day week, since which I have been labouring with as much assiduity by fair, and threatning means to obtain returns of our strength in this Camp and Roxbury, & their Dependences, as a man could do, and never have been able to accomplish the matter till this day — however, with all answers for the correctness of them, although I have sent several of the Regimental returns back more than once to have mistakes rectified. — I do not doubt but the Congress will think me

very remote in not writing to them sooner, but you may rely on it yourself, and they you to assure them, that it has never been in my power, till this day, to comply with their orders. could I have conceived, that that which ought, and in a regular Army would have been done in an hour, would employ eight days, I should have sent an Express off the 22d Morning after I arrived with a gen.l account of things. but expecting in the Morning to receive the Returns in the Evening, and in the Evening surely to get them in the Morning (at last getting rid of Imperfections, have been drilled on from day to day, till I am ashamed to look back at the time which has elapsed since my arrival here. —

You will perceive by the returns, that we have but about 15000 effective men in all this department, whereas by the acct which I received from the several Officers in command, I had no doubt of finding between 18 and 20000 — out of these there are only 11000 fit for duty — so soon as I was able to get this state of the army, & came to the knowledge of your weakness, I immediately summoned a Council of War, the result of which you will see, as also inclosed to the Congress. — Between you

and me I think we are in an exceeding dangerous situation as our Numbers are not much larger than we suppose from the best Accts we are able to get, those of the Enemy to be Thus situated in such a manner as to be drawn to any point of attack without our having an hours previous notice of it (if the Gen.l with keep his own Council) whereas we are obliged to be guarded at all points, & Every where, with precaution, to look for them — I should not, I think, have made choice of the present Posts in the first Instance — Indeed I believe, the Communication between the Town and Country could not have been so well cut off without, but, as much labour has been bestowed in throwing up Redoubts &c.ª — as Cambridge, Roxbury & Watertown must be immediately exposed to the Mercy of the Enemy were we to quit a little further in the Country — as it would give a general dispatt'd Action to this Colony — dispirit our own People, and encourage the Enemy, to remove at this time to another place we have resolved in Council to maintain our ground if we can — our Lines on Winter & Prospect Hills, & those of the Enemy on Bunkers Hill, are in full view of each other, a Mile distant

our advanced guards much nearer, & the
Centries almost near enough to converse
— At Roxbury & Boston Neck it is the same
between these we are obliged to guard several
Places at which the Enemy may
land, — The Enemy have strongly fortified, or
will in a few days, their Camp on Bunkers
Hill, after which & their new Landed Troops
have got a little refreshed, we shall look for
a stroke, if they mean, as we are told they do,
to come out of their Lines — their great Com-
mand of Artillery, & adequate Stores of Ammunition, Powder &c. gives them advan-
tages which we have only to lament the want
of — The abuses in this Army I fear, are con-
siderable. and the new modelling of it, in the
face of an Enemy, from whom we every
hour expect an attack exceedingly difficult
& dangerous — if things therefore should not
turn out as the Congress would wish I hope
they will make proper allowances — I can only
promise & assure them, that, my whole time
is devoted to their Service, & that as far as
my judgment goes, they shall have no cause
to complain. — I need not tell you that
this Letter is written in much haste — the matter
sufficiently appears from the face of it. I have
a hasty Letter would please you better than no
Letter, & therefore shall offer no further apo-
logy, but assure you that with sincere regard
my fellow Labourer with you. Dear Sir Your most Obed. Serv. G. Washington

Dear Gen.l

Philad.a July 12.th 1775.

We take the liberty to recommend to y.r countenance & favr. the bearer Wm. George Baylor, not only on Account of the memory of his worthy father, w.m whom you was acquainted, but for his own merit. He is a Lieut.t in the Carolina Independants where he has distinguished himself by abserving discipline & indicated Bravery when called to its exertion; and this Ardor in the noble cause has drawn him to. — your school for instruction & employment as far as his services may be required, in which we doubt not he will prove himself worthy of any marks of y.r regard.

We are

Sir

Your most hble Servts.

P. Henry jr.

Richard Henry Lee

Edm.d Pendleton

Benj.a Harrison

Rec.
Re Our Delegates
in Congress
12 July 1775

Sir. Philadelphia 24 July 1775

Attention to the public business, and an immediate answer to your letter not being necessary, will, I hope, beg my excuse for not sooner acknowledging the receipt of your favor of June the 5th The case you mention has not yet come under consideration of the Congress. It is a hard one no doubt, but how to give relief, without a[gainst] introducing that Commodity to public use, is a question of much difficulty. New York is not a singular instance of such sufferings plentifully they are to be found, scattered thro all the Colonies. Should Congress determine to admit the sale & use of what tea is on hands, may not bad men take the advantage of the impossibility of distinguishing this, from newly imported Tea, & thereby render abortive the whole of our efforts against this article, the baleful cause of our present disagreeable situation. The

I am among the number of those unavoidably [illegible] to introduced into society, by the want of public virtue. very I am acquainted with many instances of large quantities of stop Tea in Virginia, but from hopes to find that the sufferers bear their misfortune with such therefrom — Is more of the public good resulting the use of Tea has been from a year now since totally banished from Virginia — Do you not think Sir, that Gen. Gage will turn his eyes to N. York for the sister Deserters for [illegible] of his Army, and if so, may it not be wise to be prepared for resisting a plan calculated to afford shelter in the cold weather to Men who will certainly enter upon our destruction when the Season changes? I am with much regard

Sir Your most Obedient humble Servant

Richd H. Lee

Alex. Mc Dougal Esqr

N. York

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e to Alexander McDougall-draft

To

No 280

Richard Henry Lee Esquire

now at

Philadelphia

Alex. M. Pougal Esqr
New York
1775

Alexr. M. Pougal
June 5th 1775
R. H. Lee
Answ. 30 Sept
(No 280.)

Letter to R. H. Lee
County Antrim
Ireland

Dear Sir,

Before this comes to Hand, I fear you will have received, I mean my, the Petition to the King. You will perhaps, at first, be surprized, that We make no Claim, and mention no Right. But I hope considering all Circumstances, You will be of Opinion, that this Humility in an Address the Throne is at present proper.

Our Rights we have already stated — our Claims made — & is actually begun, and We are carrying it on vigorously. This Conduct your other Publications, I dare shew, fairly are not Covered — The Administration, desirous of postponing the Effusion of British Blood, the Opportunity is now offered to them, by receiving our humble Petition, praying for Accommodation — If they reject this, Affront with Contempt, the more humble it is, such Treatment will confirm the Minds of our Countrymen, to endure all the Misfortunes may attend the Contest —

I do not know what Thoughts are in London of the late Engagement near Boston — But this You may be assured every one of them has been favorable to Us — & particularly that of Bunker's Hill on the 17th of last Month, where a more Carnage was made of the Royalists — Yes they gain'd our Intrenchments.

Dear Sir, your very affectionate Nephew

[redacted]

Martinico July 9

(No 1) (1st)

Beaconsfield Augt 22d 1775

Sir,

I am honord with your Letter of the 21st informing me of the time on which you propose to wait on Lord Dartmouth with the Petition of the American Congress.

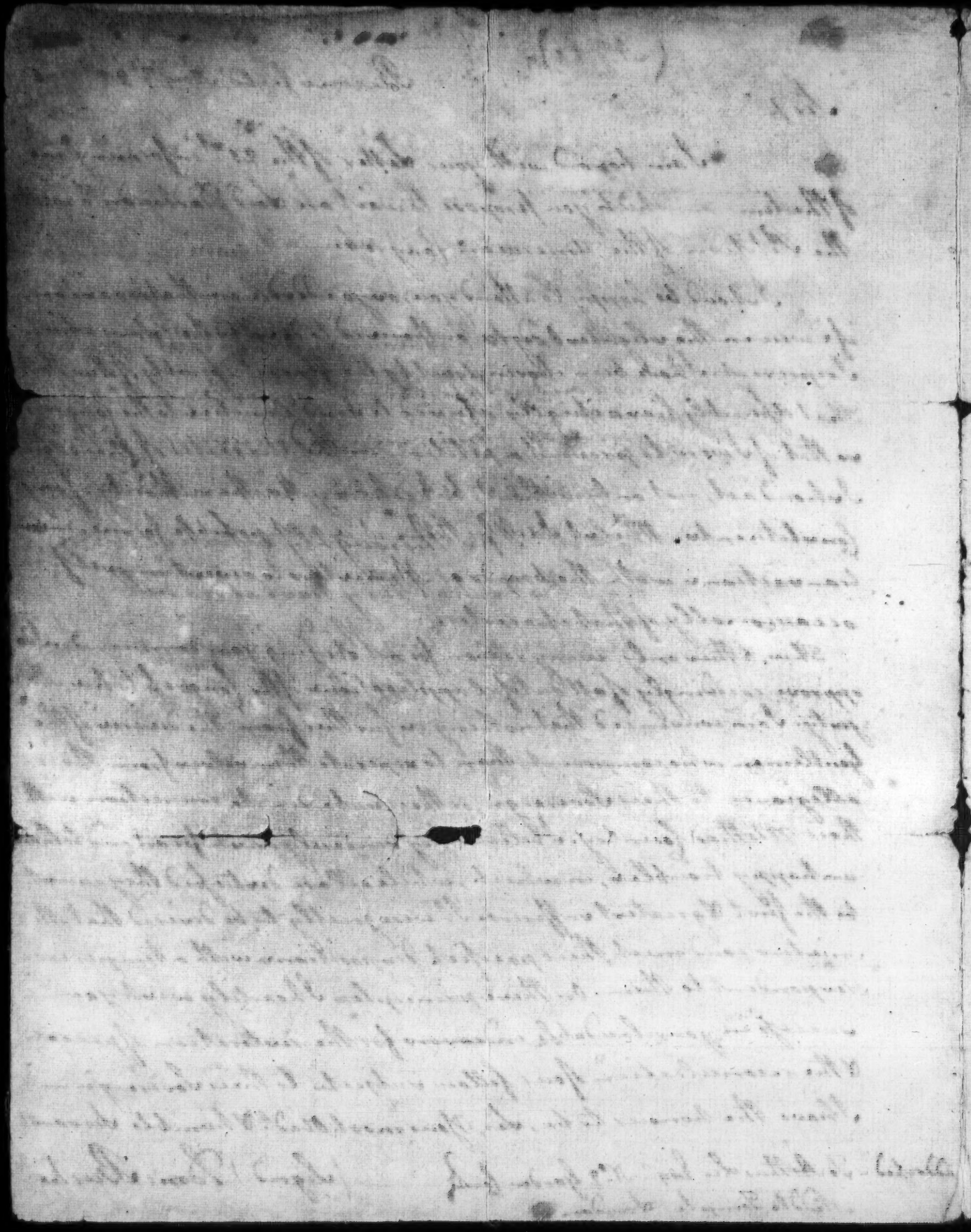
I should be happy to attend you, as you desire, on that occasion, if I were in the slightest degree authorized to do so, by the Colony which I represent. I have been chosen Agent by the General Assembly of New York. That Assembly have actually refused to send Deputies to the Congress so that if I were to present a petition in the character of their Agent I should act, not only without, but contrary to, the authority of my Constituents. Whilst I act for them it is not possible for me, in my transactions with the boards or Ministers to divest myself occasionally of that character.

This, & this only, is my reason for not obeying your commands. I do approve exceedingly of all dutiful applications of the Congress to his Majesty. I am convinced that nothing is further from the desires of the Gentlemen who compose it, than to seperate themselves from their allegiance to their Sovereign, or their subordinate connection with their Mother Country. I believe they sincerely desire for an end to their unhappy troubles, in which, while all are distressed they must be the first & greatest sufferers. It were greatly to be desired that Ministers could meet their pacifick dispositions with a temper correspondent to them. On these principles I heartily wish you success in your laudable endeavors for the restoration of peace & the reconciliation of your fellow subjects to their Sovereign —

I have the honour to be, Sir, Your most Obd.t & humble Servant

(Signd) Edm: Burke

Direct - To Arthur Lee Esq.r No 2 Garden Court
Middle Temple - London



(N°2)

Mr Penn presents his compliments to Mr Lee. What fell from Lord Dartmouth in the debate on Friday did not strike Mr P. in the same light it seems to have appeard to Mr L from the contents of his note, nor did he imagine that his Lordship intended to throw out any the least insinuation against the conduct of either of them. It is extraordinary to Mr P. that any man in a bad cause, when hard run should endeavor to catch at any twig in their way, at the same time Mr P. is thoroughly satisfied in his own conscience, that what they have already layed before the Publick respecting the delivery of the Petition was the truth, the whole truth, & nothing but the truth

New Broad Street
Nov. 12. 1775

addressed
Arthur Lee Esq.
N°2
Garden Court London

Edmund Burke to a. Lee
Aug 22d 75.
(Copy) (Note)
(1919)

Edmund Burke Esqr.

Aug 22 1775

Dear Sir

Yesterday I received a Letter from Mr Pitt, Mr Rouvel Merchant in Bristol, Mr Barnes Merchant in London, Mr Pleasants Merchant in Virginia, Mr Pleasants Merchant in Virginia, Mr Pleasants Merchant in Virginia

(N°. 3) (N°. 20) Sandwell 24. Aug. 1775

Lord Dartmouth presents his Compliments to Mr. Richard Penn & Mr. Lee; he has just received by the Post their note of the 21st. Inst. which would have been sent to him by express, if it had been known at his Office that they had any Commands for him, L^d. Dartmouth having left orders there, that he should be required in town; He will return to London in a day or two, & will not fail to inform Mr. Penn & Mr. Lee of his arrival.

(N°. 4)

St. James's Square Thursday 31 Aug. 1775

Lord Dartmouth presents his Compliments to Mr. Richard Penn & Mr. Lee, & desires to have the honor of seeing them tomorrow at twelve o'clock.

13 April 1775

Lord Dartmouth presents his Compliments
to Mr. Lee & desires to see him on Sunday
next at ten o'clock ——

(No. 5)

Mr. Bollan presents his compliments to Mr. Penn & Mr. Lee and prays them to proceed in presenting the petition to his Majesty without him as he finds himself in a state unfit for that service

WB. Mosn.

(No. 7)

Dear Mr. Lee / Bowood Park Wednesday Morn.

I took the Liberty of communicating your Letter to Mr. Dunning, who says that he proposes stopping at Bath only for a moment, but that he will endeavor to see you and give you his opinion upon the subject.

Whenever you have a mind to change the crowded Society at Bath for the Retirement of Bowood, you'll find our Society here much reduced and

(Nº 20)

To A. Lee
from
Lord Dartmouth (24 Augt. 1775.)
Same — 31 " "
Same — 13 Apl. "
Mr. Bollan — no date
Lord Shelburne — " " .

and very happy in the addition of your company
I am with great Regard very sincerely
Yours (Signd) Shelburne

1775

addressed
To A. Lee Lee Esqr
Batt.

Lord Dartmouth presents his Comp.ts
to Mr. Richard Penn, & Mr. Lee, &
desires to have the Honor of seeing them
tomorrow at twelve o'clock.

St. James's Square
Thursday 31 August. 1775.

Mr. Penn presents his compts to Mr. Lee
he has just now receid from L.d Dartmouth
her Letter Note & will be glad to see Mr
Lee in Cavendish Square if convenient
at ½ past 11 to attend her Lordships
Appointment tomorrow morning

Cavendish Square
Thursday Afternoon

(108)

Head quarters August 31. 1775.

Dear Sir

Thro' a Channel not worthy of much Confidence, we have received an Account of the Imprisonment of several Canadians, for being restless under their present exceptionable Constitution. They are said in general Terms to have wished a Return of their former Government; but no Movement towards a Reform is specified, as having been made. Added to the Vagueness of this Information, very late Opportunities have offered directly to this Place, by which this auspicious News, if true, would doubtless have been transmitted to us.

A Reason similar to this, has brought into Disrepute a Piece of Intelligence from New-York. A Gentleman, in Six Days from thence, informed,— indeed according to him [illegible] that fifty Tons

after the earnest Endeavours of the Volunteers to replace him in Williamsburg, why is he so far neglected, as to plunder Custom-House with Impunity, and review his Myrmidons on Terrâ firmâ without Danger of an Arrest? Indebted as I am, and shall ever acknowledge myself to be, to his Lordship, I should offend against a higher Obligation, were I to wish his Ravages uninterrupted or his Hostilities unanswered. Not one Advice have I heard or read from thence, but what Chance, and a single Newspaper have afforded me. Let me therefor entreat you to acquaint me with the ~~that~~ Circumstances of Virginia, whenever your Leisure can not be better employed, than in writing to, Dr. Sr.

Yours sincerely

Edmund Randolph.

(No 8)

Ed. Randolph

Edmund Randolph
Aug. 31st 1775.

Aug 6 1/8

Lee Esqr.
Virginia
now at
Philadelphia

Camp at White Hill Sept 2 17

My Dr Board Sep 2 1775

We have just heard of the strange measure in sending back the cloathing which was taken from Philadelphia — I have just time to express my astonishment and apprehension that this conduct will betray some degree of fear, than which nothing can be more pernicious both here and on the other side the water — upon this principle I must confess I was shock'd with your letter of Sept to the King — I am confident it will do mischief — it will bring on a negotiation which may perhaps be fatal — that Callous Tyrant must have his fears work'd upon alone — If I did address him I would do it in the following style — Sir, If you do not with Dispatch, your Troops on the receipt of this — by the Eternal God, We will absolve ourselves from all obedience to you — and We will Divorce ourselves forever from Great Britain — whose abject patience in suffering the exercise of such tyranny as that ~~of~~ She has experienced through your whole reign renders her totally unworthy of bearing the presiding Power of a large Empire — this is the style you should adopt this is the only style that can possibly succeed —

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rejoice that the Congress has made the acquisition of your Brother - My love and respects to him I shall write to him in a few days - apropos of writing have you received my long scroll? for God's sake let me hear from you soon — God bless you & Be Steady - and send the common cause all the success it is entitled to from a righteous Being - Adieu - Yours most truly and sincerely

Charles Lee

I say nothing of our situation - the Papers tell you —

To Colonel Richard Henry Lee

1775

Ph. de Dufphia

Gen. Washington
1775

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London Sir

London Septem. 2d 1775

To the Secretary of State for America

On the 21st of last month, we sent
from the general Congress;
a Copy of the Humble Petition, Address &
Remonstrance to his Majesty, & on Friday
the 25th instant, the first
moment that was permitted us, we
presented to him the Original, which
his Lordship promised to deliver to
his Majesty.

We thought it our duty
to desire his Lordship to obtain an Answer
& we were informed, that as his Majesty
did not receive it on the Throne, no
Answer would be given.

We have the honor of being
Sir
Your most faithful &
humble Servants

The President of the
General Congress

Sigd Richd Penn
Arthur Lee

London. Septem.r 2.d 1775

To the Secretary of the [illegible]

In the [illegible] of last Month, we went
[illegible] the general Congress
a Copy of their Petition, [illegible]
[illegible] and [illegible] the first
moment that it was permitted us, we
presented to him the Original, which
his Lordship promised to deliver to
his Majesty.

We thought it our duty
to keep his Lordship [illegible] to obtain Answer
till we were informed, that as his Majesty
[illegible] not receive it on the Throne, no
Answer to be given.

We have the honor of being
Sir
Your most faithful
humble Servants

The President of the
General Congress

Signed Richd Penn
Arthur Lee

The President of the General Congress
(No 2)

London Sept. 2. 1775

Hon.ble Sir

On the 21st of last month, we sent to the Secretary of State for America a copy of the petition from the general Congress; yesterday the first moment that was permitted us, we presented to him the original, which his Lordship promised to deliver to his Majesty.

We thought it our duty to press his Lordship to obtain an answer; but we were informed, that as his Majesty did not receive it on the throne, no answer would be given

We have the honor of being

Sir

Your most faithful & Obedient

Servants

(Signed) Richard Penn
Arthur Lee

(№21)

Richd Penn & Arthur Lee
to
President of Genl Congress
(2d dep: 1775)

But to our very great surprise his Lordship informed us that — "no answer would be given".

Upon this answer I expressed to Ld Dartmouth my sorrow that his Majesty had been advised to a measure which ~~must~~ would occasion so much bloodshed. To this his LordShip answered that if he thought it would be the cause of shedding one drop of blood, he should never have concurred in it; but that he could not be of opinion that it would be attended with any such consequence. — May Lord, I replied, as sure as we exist this answer will be the cause of much blood being shed in America & most dreadful consequences. — We then took our leave. Persuaded as I was that the determination of the King & his Ministers had been long fixed for using force, I should not have troubled myself with making any observation upon the answer we received, but [illegible] being a man of [illegible] character, I thought [illegible] name I [illegible] if the

on the Cabinet.

We agreed upon the following letter to the President of Congress

London Sept. 2d 1775

In the 21st of last month we sent to the Secretary of State for America a copy of the petition from the general Congress & yesterday, the first moment that was permitted us, we presented to him the original which his Lordship promiss to deliver to his Majesty. We thought our duety to press his Lordship to obtain an answer; but we were informed — that as his Majesty did not receive it on the throne, no answer would be given

We have the honor to be
signd Richd Penn
Arthur Lee

I have stated to the reporters of the refusal to be made public in all the Papers of the People of England

Dear [redacted] Sept 8th 1775

The Complexion of Affairs are of [illegible] since
with you. Nothing discovered of but war. Our Ministry are up
with you. They are arming every hand, protestant & catholic, en-
glish, irish, scotch, hanoverian, hessian, indian & canadian against
the United Colonies. Arming roman Catholics is directly contrary
to law, but they expect every protection from the politeness of
Parliament The News Papers tell us, & I believe truly, that both in rais-
ing men & recruiting they meet with very little success, such is the gene-
ral repugnance to this unnatural war.

This being the year for supplying the spanish
Fleets, the extraordinary Demand for that purpose, prevents the Ma
nufacturers & farmers feeling as they would have done, from the stop-
page of american commerce. But that is temporary, & as soon as men
forget, with concern, times of great violence & distress here, in
consequence of this unhappy quarrel. Tho' it is evident to all the
world that the Ministry here sought & forced this quarrel, & ought there
fore to be answerable for all its pernicious consequences; yet like
all other wicked men, they are endeavouring to screen for their own
guilt to others, & sacrifice the innocent to save themselves. You
will see this plan opend in the late Proclamation against holding
correspondence &c with those among you, who are in arms.
And it is certain, they have intercepted some Letters, & mean to
persecute some of the active enemies here to their arbitrary
proceedings. It is supposed & expected that justice will lead the genera
Congress to declare, upon their ceasing the Proclamation, that if
any one is proceeded against here for corresponding with the People

of America, or befriending them here, they will immediately serve upon all those in America who correspond with [redacted] the Ministry. Without such a declaration their friends, & especially their Agents here, will be at the mercy of the most unprincipled Administration that ever disgraced humanity. Vattel, the most respected writer on the Law of Nations, has this apposite observation. Le Duc D'Albe condamnoit a mort tous les prisonniers qu'il pouvoit faire sur les confederes des pays-bas; Ceux-ci useroient de represailles, et les cantonnements en furent le resultat. Leur egard, le droit des gens, et les loix de la guerre. The same check must be held over these men, whose inclinations are equally bloody & unjust. The principle upon which their pensioned writer Dr. Johnson defends the Boston port Bill, — that where they are satisfyd of guilt, there is no occasion for evidence or trial — is that on which they would punish all those who oppose their tyranny.

The quantity of Artillery, Arms & Ammunition shipd against New England is greater than ever went from this Country before. There with an Army of forty thousand men are intended to carry destruction thro those Provinces next spring. Fifty Ships of War, are to ravage the Coast, & interdict all commerce. Small Armies are to be sent to Virginia & S. Carolina It will behoove them therefore to prepare against the Storm that is intended to pour down distruction upon them.

After a great many days Delay & debate, they have condescended to receive the Petition from the general Congress, but have refusd to give an Answer. It is indeed sufficiently answerd by the Proclamation, which was issued some days after they had a Copy of the Petition. America will therefore understand, that She has nothing but her own virtue & firmness in which She can trust. I understand, it is intended to declare your Ports open to all nations, upon coercive measures being continued after the Petition. I can only say that is a measure of the last importance, & leading to consequences of infinite moment, it ought to be well weighd, & not adopted but upon the compulsion of absolute necessity. It would be a hard thing for the united Country against America, unless there is a certainty of its being accepted by other nations, might be injurious. Parliament will meet next month, when we shall see how the expence of so enormous a War will be relishd.

Shew this Letter to our friend the Farmer, & communicate it to N. H. &. Adieu — Remember me to y^r fireside

Sepr 5th 1775.

the Duke of Alva condemned to death all the
inhabitants that he made from the Confederates & the
Low Countries - Sure and Retrivals, and thus
obliged them on their part to respect the rights
of Nations and the Laws of war.)

Sir, 23 [illegible]

Since my last we have recvd advices from the Wiandots, a Sensible Nation, who live near to Detroit & have great Influence on the Southern parts of Indians — It may be plainly perceivd that they are a great deal Attach'd to the Commandt of Detroit — Some of them have promised to Convey hereto what we have to say — That is their Policy — They have very lately killd a Traders Servant & Carried off part of the Goods — The Nation has been an Apology, & the Goods are Restord to the Owner — We have advices likewise from the Indians living up the Allegany River about 160 miles above this place — Several of them have been at a Treaty held at Niagara, & inform us that many Indians are gone to Albany but a greater Number to Caghnawaga near to Montreal, at the Instigation of Guy Johnston & Carlton

The Commandt of Niagara & Johnston told them to Watch our motions here very Narrowly, & the Red Coats & other English would fight us by Ships, Whilst the Indians kept pushing us off on our frontier — That we could not hold out long for want of Powder, as we usually had it from Britain & could not make any amongst ourselves —

That he would Supply them plentifully with Powder, & every thing else — I can see that the Indians, are very Jealous, greatly divided, & as a

at a less time to act —

General Schuylers Success will Settle the Matter, But an unsuccessful Attempt, will determine the greatest part of the Western Indians against us —

Perhaps make it necessary to take possession of Niagara & Detroit

We have reason to expect all the Indians who intend to come to us, will attend next Week

I have the honour to be with Respect

Sir, Your most Obt hble Ser.

Adam Stephen

Fort Pitt
23d Sept. 1775

158

Gent Stephen
23d Sept 1775

Col. Richd Henry Lee
of Virginia
Philadelphia

Copy

London Sept.r 23. 1775–

Inclosed you have two papers for a
amusement and meditation, can show you some
more.

A Man here in the distinction of blood Worthy
Ministers must be cautious what he writes – the
innocence

innocence, virtue and connections of Burr will not save them, in the usurpation times of Charles the 2d. and the same proceedings may every day be expected to revive; but I do hope you will take care to have reprivals enough in your hands. In the most ridiculous farce in the world to retain any scruple about altering the antient forms of government, when the Governors, have lost all sight of the interest and happiness of the Governed. How will you be prepared to cope with 20,000 Burrians or Germans, which the ministers are now negotiating with foreign powers for, to send among you next Spring. A Hanoverian is already engaged to enlist one Regiment of 1500 Men for that service, if he can get them. Take care of yourselves and be provided to meet these men, every Diabolical attempt against you. You may smile at what you please from America, but we cannot do so here.

Addressed To Col. Landon Carter ——

Sabine Hall Rapp. Virginia

London 25th Sept. 1775.

You will have a great Deal of political matter by this opportunity perhaps more than will be pleasant to read. You will see in the papers the general Ministerial Address against America — In the City of York and Bristol the Ministerialists have been defeated and Addresses refused — this Day at a very numerous meeting of the County of Middlesex, where a number of Freeholders attended with all the forces they could muster, Resolutions to the Members for the County strongly reprobating the Ministerial measures against G. B. and America, Directing them to use their utmost endeavours to get them recalled and to bring the Authors to condign punishment, were carried with only about 20 Dissentient voices. A letter was also addressed to all the Freeholders in G. B. requesting their concurrence with the Freeholders of Middlesex. I apprehend the City of London will adopt a similar plan on the 29th. Instant.

Notwithstanding this it is most perfectly clear that America will not receive any effectual assistance from England and Scotland in 99 to 1, against her. The People of England at large heartily detest the business, but the inactivity or treachery of leading Whigs have nullified the Sense, Spirit or Virtue of their Ancestors — Chatham is a lost Man for in the vale of Life to Do much, and his fellow is not left, [illegible] succeed

America must save herself. The only way to do so is plain — Avoid to the utmost is sufficient.

It is supposed no time will be lost in securing important pledges to answer for the personal safety of the American friends here that may be subject to by a profligate and abandoned Administration. Attend to the history of Charles the 2d and you will have a distinct and perfect idea of the present times and men in every department of the State; I conceived that within third moment would suffice, abilities connections & influence could save the immortal Burke and Sydney. Six hours third wounded brought about the revolution, and similar instances may produce a similar event in our Days; however I confess will venture to write any thing material, but I do expect the Americans will by every opportunity give their friends true information of what is passing, that the Public in England may not be imposed on by the false and unfounded ministerial accounts from which no mischief can arise to the writers if the letters should be intercepted — because the writers will not be in the power of third persons.

Secondly When the ago application was made to the Regency of Hanover for troops to send to America — the Regency required that no bartel was settled for the exchange of Prisoners they could not let the subjects of Hanover go —

for

for tho' the Americans might treat British
subjects with civility, they could not do more if
they would treat foreigners in the same manner
who came to invade their Country, upon this
the Ministers were obliged to change their plan,
the Havannah, were ordered to Gibraltar and
Minorca and 3 Regts from Ireland were ordered
to America, were now about embarking. It not
their appears that it were not to proper to settle
any Capitol at least for a year or two untill it
occasionally, for the Moment that is done, the
Americans may expect to be overrun with as
Russians, Germans and Cossacks — It is said and
perhaps with good authority, that the Ministers
are at this moment negotiating for 20,000 as
Russians as they find they cannot be got into
G. B. to carry on the unnatural Civil War in
America; the Ministerial plan is most assuredly
to continue in their wicked plans of enslaving
America and when accomplished they would
neither give up the Colonies than not have
been at Cannon. The utmost force will be tryed,
at the same time every Delusive art will be
used to deceive the People, with Bribery and
all kinds of treachery; let them all be guarded
against. If J. Adams's plan as mentioned in
his letter to Jay Warren had been pursued, —
America would have won the Game by this time.
26,000 Men are certainly to be sent to America
so

to make the Compliment Mine in the Spring 30,000
effective men. The great theme of Action will
be in New England and New York — but part
and to go to Virginia — the Coast every where is
to be guarded with a number of ships of War,
so that the United will be the only time for
America to get supplied with foreign Ammunition
, now made communicating intelligence with
certainly be adopted by America.

I heard any news papers be not
in a blank Cover, the part inclosed in mine
opened in the may be depended on as truth. Show
X R. H. L. this as soon as you can as I would it to
him. —— Farewell ——

Addressed To / R. H. L. Esq / Monticello
Richmond County

X Richard Henry Lee,

I. Francis Lightfoot Lee,

[illegible]

Gentlemen, Philadelphia 23d Sept 1775

Army General Washington's

Lett inclosures to Congress, was the deposition, a copy
of which, is now sent for your information, Conferring
Him, with the last intelligence we had the honor of sending
you, ~~then~~ and Dunmores inimical system against Virginia
seems to be pretty fully examined. To frustrate this
diabolical design, will it not be highly expedient to
intercept Majr. Connelly, in his passage thro the Indian
Country, or to have him arrested whilst in his winter
quarters? ~~It is probable that in case of~~ ~~which may be Done~~ ~~by~~
~~offering a reward, and~~ ~~It is~~ It is not improbable but that this may be effected, by
offering reward to Men of proper Spirit, enterprize and know-
ledge of the Country & Indian nations, thro which they intend
& ought to pass to Fort Pitt. We submit to your Gentlemen the
prudence of sending a copy of this deposition to the Committee
of Safety in N. E, that they will
with a request to detach a few
Runners on this useful errand. We expect the same
application will be made to S.C. & G. by their Delegates
in Congress.

I can lay no Claim to your Lordships patronage.
I cherish, however, the Hope of enjoying it, as
an abused Subject of the same King who reigns
over the Natives of Great Britain, and one
entitled to birth-rights critically similar to theirs.

A stranger even to your Name I may be
thought too negligent in prefatorial ceremony:
But knowing, as I do, that apologies to your
Lordships predecessor, from one in my condition
asking aid, would have been counted by him
derogatory to his real character; and firmly
believing that the highly respectable Livery
of London will not have tarnished their Honour
by the new election; I proceed, with the same
confidence which I should have felt a month
earlier, to intreat the chief Magistrate of the
Capital of Great Britain to countenance the

Virtu

ports and Islands to form a right [illegible]
constitution; and also, as a call upon the g[illegible]
skilled in Law, to point out some course [illegible]
Redress to

My Lord

Your Lordships
devoted humble Servant
James Lovell

Provost's Prison
Boston N England
Octr 10th 1775

To

The Right Honorable

The Lord Mayor of London

(64)

Tyonderoga Octr. 19th 1775 (159)

Dear Sir

I am Indebted to you in a thousand thanks for your polite letter which Mr. Caldwell was so good as to deliver me the day, the utmost of my Ambition is to approve my self a good Citizen, an Important and Comprehensive Phrase,

You will pardon me, I refer you to my Public Letters for an account of our operations, nothing as yet that is decisive,

The Intelligence which I have received from Congress respecting the Ministerial designs on Canada have given me much uneasiness, as I think it manifest to every friend of America acquainted with the Geography of that part of the Country, such a timely attention, and a vigorous Execution of any plans that may be formed to guard against the Evil; may frustrate the designs of the Ministry, where I in Congress and Capable of Conveying my Ideas with propriety I should speak for hours on the Subject in order to Impress Gentlemen (more sensible with Gentlemen) with the necessity of taking this matter in hand without delay,— My best wishes attend you Dear Sir

I am Dear Sir

Most Sincerely Your Obedient

Humble Servant

Ph. Schuyler

Gent^n C. in C. & Vice (1080) Williamsbg Octr 28. 1775

The Committee of Safety having recommended it to the County Commees to Stop & forward to them all Public Letters which might be met with, have received Applications for Liberty to Open the ministerial Mail, as the only Channel, through which such Intelligence can fall in the way of the upper Committees. It has also been complained of that the same Riders are employed to carry that & the constitutional Mail, who generally carry both post to the former Offices, from which they apprehend mischiefs may arise but none have happened yet that we know of: As this Subject was rather a continental concern than a Colony one, I have it in Command from the Committee to mention it to you, Gent. that the Congress may if it is necess^y take order therein, or perhaps it may be remedied by the American Post-master. We spoke to M^r. Dixon who said he was ready to decline the Office if the Committee wished him to do so, but submitted to them whether that Post might not be usefully continued as the only means of Intelligence from Britain.

You'll have heard of the degrading and mortifying Accounts from Norfolk, where the seising the Printer at Noon day & seising & Plundering others in the neighbourhood, were tamely submitted to, when Matthews & Robinson wth others were taken at Kemps landing, two Militia Captains wth 70 men were in Arms ab^t a mile off; a fine ditch & Covert was pointed out to them, where they might attack the enemy in their retreat, (for they landed about 2 Miles off & were to return to their boats) But these brave Capt^s not only refused to go, but restrained their men from Marching wth a Gent^n who offered to lead them. The Commee could not form a camp there immediately for want of Arms - It is now ready & would have been gone but for the rencounter at Hampton on Thursday & Friday last, wch is fully related in the papers & I hope will in some measure redeem the

bleeding Honr. of Virginia. (We are much concerned to hear there are traitors in Philidelphia, but alas they are the product of every Clime. Virg.a has its Matt Shrapps, who we are just informed is gone on board the William, You know the Sacred trust reposed in him. Our importation of Grain was about 4000 lb. which is safely Stored.) By order of the Committee, I have the Honr. to be

Gent

Yr. mo. Ob.t hble Servt.

Edm.d Pendleton

No 298.

(1780)

To

The Honble the Delegates from
Virginia

To the Congress at

Phil.a

1 Nov 1780.

Cambridge 29th October 1775

Dear Sir,

As you will be fully informed of every matter and thing relative to the Army, by your own Committee I should not have given you the trouble of a Letter at this time were it not on Col. Read's acct. He is, as I presume you may have heard, concerned in many of the principal Causes now depending in the Court of Pennsylvania and should those Causes be try'd by his brethren of the profession it will not only do him a manifest injury in his practice and future prospects but afford room for complaint of his having neglected his business as a Lawyer this I think may be avoided if some of your Sett. of the Congress in the course of conversation with the Chief Justice & others

would be present Hadria stages we
must resort to him in case his causes
should be hurried to tryal. —

That Lieu.t Reed is clear in his
business, and useful to me, is too appa-
rent to be mention'd. I should do equal injus-
tice therefore to his abilities & merit,
were I not to add that his services
here are too important to be lost, and
that I could wish to have him consider-
ed in this point of view by your Excellency
Body when occasion shall favour. —

I shall take it kind of you,
to give me from time to time such authen-
tick Intelligence of the Manouvres of
Ministry as you think may be relied
on, we get none but News-Paper accounts
here & those very imperfect. — I am
with sincere esteem & regard

D.r Sir Your most Obed.t Humble Serv.t

G.o Washington

102

G. Washington

about 1st Nov.

29th Oct. 1779

General Washington

To

Richd. Henry Lee Esq.

Philadelphia

Favoured by Col. Reed

Gentlemen &c. &c. &c. (No 81)

Williamsb.g Nov.r 11. 1775.

The Committee of Safety have received & considered y.r favr. of Oct.r 31.st & can easily foresee the necessity of Arms & Ammunition being sought for during this Winter, and the propriety of relaxing so much of the Association as might interfere with the prosecution of that business; we also wish you to consider whether the importation of Salt, might not be included in that regulation, as we are informed from all parts that the Clamours of the people begin to be high on Acco.t of that Article, and we greatly fear the consequences if some method cannot be fallen on to Supply their wants - we are sorry to say we hear nothing promising from Mr. Tate, and are told Ld. Dunmore has already collected a large quantity, & is embracing every Opportunity, by seizing what comes in his way, of increasing his store, we doubt not with an intention to try the Virtue of our people, when the want of that necessary Article, becomes more sensible among them.

Tho' we see the Utility of the measures adopted by the Congress for the importation of these necessaries, we at the same time cannot avoid contemplating the danger & almost insuperable difficulties, which in Our Opinion will attend the carrying it into Execution here, in our defenceless State without a single Armed Vessell to give the opposite Imports even the Shadow of Protection; this circumstance, with the bad prospect we have of the former experiment in the Bills of Exchange, induces us not to take upon Ourselves the adoption & Execution of this proposition, but to submit it to a Convention, which is to meet the first — day of December, And their determination shall be communicated to you, if your continuing to sit as Congress shall prevent our having the pleasure of y.r Assistance.

Our best Accounts make the Force of Ld. Dunmore & the Navy to be this. The Otter & Mercury 20 guns & 170 men each; in this number however are included those which man occasionaly the following tenders viz.t

4 Schooners, one of them formerly belong.d to Mr. Jam.s Griffin & seized at Norfolk

3 Sloops.

3 Pilot Boats. On board these tenders are some 4 & 3 pounders, besides Swivels

The William 14 Guns - we don't know the number of men but believe those and the Land Forces intrenched at Gosport, amount to about 300.

The Gilbert a new ship prepared for 22 guns not quite fitted a Brigg just arrived from New-York w.th 200 stand of Arms, her force not known.

The Number of Torys at Norfolk can't be ascertained, as they are mixed with our friends, who do not choose to declare until Our Army is there to protect them.

Nor can we ascertain the Number of slaves w.th Ld. Dunmore & the Navy, some Accos. make them about 100, Others less

Besides these Vessells, we have frequent Accounts of their seising all that pass, we are told they are going to set up an Admiralty Court at Norfolk for their condemnation, (by whom we are not informed) and suppose they will be inlisted in the Piratical Service.

We are collecting as desired by the Committee of Congress an Account of the several depredations committed here & shall forward it, as soon as we are enabled to do so. the only persons we know at present to be detained by them (besides Slaves) are Mr. Goodrich who brought in the Powder, Capt. Matthews &, Mr. Robinson, from Prince Geo.

We Sympathise with you in the disagreable Feelings you must sustain On the disgraceful patience & suffering of some of our people, which tho' confined to a very few will be charged to the Colony. The only Appology for them is the exposed Situation of their Families & property, the want of Arms & Ammunition & their intermixture w.th Torys, who instead of Assisting, were ready every moment to betray them. We could not protect them, We had men enough, but were left to ransack every corner of the Country for Arms, Tents & other necessarys, the few we collected, were unavoidably retained here for the protection of our Magazine, Treasury & Records; both Regiments are now tolerably Armed & Our Troops are marching to Norfolk — let us have Credit for driving them off at Hampton, & for having ever since prevented their coming near the Shore there & up the River as high as James Town, tho' they attempt to frighten us with ab discharges of their Cannon

Pray may we not be favr.d with such proceedings of the Congress as are compleat Laws are to conform to. What is become of the Confederation? We are told some Copies are in the Colony & condemned, whilst we can say nothing on the Subject, being Strangers to its contents. We have the Hon.r to be w.th much esteem & regard,

Gent Yr. mo. Obed.t Serv.ts
Edm.d Pendleton
John Page
Richard Kidd
Dudley Digges
Carter Braxton
John Tabb.

Since writing the Treas.r informs us Mr. Tate has his Sons Gipsed & says he can make 150 bush.s a week;

£
300
75
7800

(1081)

No. 2

The Honble The Speaker from Virginia

in Congress

at Philadelphia

Nov.r 11. 1775

Committee of Safety in

Virginia concerning

the state of the war in

that Colony

Dear Sir, Philadelphia Novem^r 18th 1775

I must beg leave at the beginning of this letter to
apologize for any incorrectness of stile or great haste.
Indeed the hurry of business which here with many of us,
that we have little time for the ordinary offices of life.
You may be assured that I will do Col. Read all the service
that I can in the way you desire. We have a Ship here in 6
weeks from London, that brought the original letter of which
the inclosed is a copy. 'Tis from a well informed, sensible person,
and may be relyed on. All the other letters from London join
in confirming it to be the first determination of K^g ___ and Court
to leave undone, nothing that they can do, to compel implicit
obedience in America. One very sensible letter that I have seen
mentions that Gen. Amherst had recommended (& 'twas
said it would be executed) to remove the Army this winter
from Boston to Long Island in order to get amply supplied
by ravaging N. Jersey, N. York and Rhode Island. Should
this be attempted, I suppose you will be furnished with
an opportunity of giving them a genteel parting salute.
And besides, I should suppose that a winter favorable
for us, would expose them to much from a timely, strong
attack, of superior numbers on that naked Island. It is said
that immense stores of Indian goods are sent to Canada in
order to bribe the Indians to an early endeavour to attack
on all our frontiers next Spring. God grant that Col.
Arnold's success and Montgomery's may frustrate their
diabolical part of their infernal plan against the
common rights of Mankind.

We hoped here, that the surrender of Chamblé, with the military stores there obtained, would speedily procure the reduction of St. Johns, but no accounts are yet come of their wished event. After Lord Dunmore, supported by the North British Forces, had long committed every outrage, at Norfolk he unshipped, our people not having Arms or ammunition on that Calety; his Banditti at length attempted Kamptom, where they met with the chastisement you will see described in the part of Dixons Paper enclosed. The Lieutenant Wright there mentioned has been since found dead on the shore, a bullet having been placed in his body by the jumpt over board. We have not yet heard the consequence of their next intended attack, but it seems a very heavy Cannonade was heard there the next day. If the Devil inspired them to come on shore, I make no doubt but we shall have a good account of them. I have a very particular reason for entreating that you will inform me by return of Post, what number, and what strength of Armed Ships could possibly be procured from the Ports you when are in to be in Delaware Bay, if Congress should desire it by the middle or last of December at furthest. Two or 3 Vessels of tolerable force, issuing from hence, may effect a stroke or two of great consequence to us at that season We have certainly 4000 weight of powder, and a very considerable quantity of Ordnance arrived in Virginia from Italia for the use of our little Army consisting of about 2000 men now at Williamsburg & Hampton—

Be pleased to let Gen. Lee see the Letter from England

I heartily wish you every happiness and all the success the goodness of your cause deserves. I am, with great esteem Dear Sir Your affectionate & faithful and obedient Servant

Richard Henry Lee

Congress has ordered 500,000 dollars to be struck as soon as they can be signed.

1775, Nov. 13

A

The Continental, and Virginia
Commissioners, have just concluded a treaty
of firm friendship with the Ohio Indians and
those of the Six nations that inhabit near
that Quarter. We have taken the most effectual
measures, by sending Messengers from all the Southern Nations
to the Indian Nations thro which he proposes to pass, to arrest
and secure L^d. Dunmore provided Agent
Conelly

(№84) Virginia Trustees Vol. [illegible]

Gentlemen

We shall waiting your new Commissioners who have been regularly elected by the Freeholders of this County as by the Ordinance of the Honorable the Convention, Several applications were made from the inhabitants of this & the back Counties, to procure them Salt, an article now no where to be had on this part of the Country: The Commissioners endeavoured therefore together with a knowledge of the complaints & clamours of the People to take into consideration Your Opinion, that to procure being a real necessary of life ought to be procured at any event. In fact the minds of the People & Legislature on the Country, they have desired fall on any possible method to procure a Temporary supply, and to recommend to you in order that some means may be taken for prevention more effectual supply: we have accordingly given directions to Mr. Montgomery to procure a quantity from Norfolk. which we are informed may be had for Ready Money on short notice. The remuneration agreement took place we beg you to note that Inconveniencies may occasion by a sudden cessation be avoided; but earnestly request you will procure more Salt hereafter by Instalments as shall hereto you may direct. We refer to the bearer Thomas Montgomery for information as to the Quantity we desire to be procured & the liberty to recommend him to you for that purpose, being a person in whom we are related you may justly confide, & make any enquiries you shall judge necessary for the part of the Country, & you have not already taken some measures for procuring a quantity from Norfolk. which we are informed may be had on reasonable terms we beg leave to refer you to his Instructions.

We

(No 54)

Pr. Wm Com. of Correspd
Nov 14th 75.

Virginia Dumfries Novr. 14, 177[5]

Gentlemen

At a fall meeting of our new Committee who have been regularly elected by the Freeholders of this County agreeble to an Ordinance of the Honorable the Convention, several Applications were made from the inhabitants of this & the back Counties, to procure them Salt, an article now not to be had in this part of the Country: The Committee induced thereby, together with a knowledge of the complaints & clamours of the people took the matter into consideration & are of oppinion that Salt being a real necessary of life, ought to be procured at any event. To quiet the minds of the people & keep peace in the Country, they have desired us [to] fall on any possible method to procure a Temporary supply, and to correspond with you in order that some means may be taken for preventing more effectually a future scarcity; we have accordingly given directions to Mr. Montgomrie to procure a quantity from Norfolk, which we are informed may be had tho' probably imported since the nonimportation agreement took [effect.] We therefore hope that the inconveniencies may for a time by a judici-[torn] be suspended; but earnestly request you will provide more effec[tive supply] hereafter, by such means as shall appear to you most proper. On appli[cation] to the bearer Thomas Montgomrie Esqr. he informs us , that he could in future furnish any Quantity; we therefor take the liberty to recommend him to you for that purpose, being a person in whom we are satisfied you may fully confide to make any importation you shall judge necessary for this part of the Country; if you have not already falled on some other method.

To him we beg leave to refer you for further particulars.

We have the honor to be

Gentlemen

Your most obedient Servants

[Gouspee]? Tebbs
Henry Lee
F. Blacburne
Rich. Graham

Committee of Correspondence

[Addressed:] To The Honorable The Members of the General Congress Philadelphia. By favr. of Thos. Montgomrie Esqr.

[Endorsed:] Novr. 14 1775 Prince Wm Committee of Correspondence 1775.

John Adams.

Philadelphia Nov 15th 1775.

Dear Sir

The Course of Events, naturally turns the Thoughts of Gentlemen to the Subjects of Legislation and Jurisprudence, and it is a curious Problem what Form of Government, is most easily & aptly adopted by a Colony, upon a Sudden Emergency. Nature and Experience have already pointed out the Solution of this Problem, in the Choice of Conventions and Committees of Safety. Nothing is wanting in addition to these to make a compleat Government, but the Appointment of Magistrates for the due Administration of Justice.

Taking Nature and Experience for my Guide I have made the following Sketch, which may be varied in any one particular an infinite Number of Ways, So as to accommodate it to the different, Genius, Temper, Principles and even Prejudices of different People.

A Legislative, an Executive and a judicial Power, comprehend the whole of what is meant and understood by Government. It is by balancing each of these Powers against the other two, that the Effort in humane Nature towards Tyranny, can alone be checked and restrained and any degree of Freedom preserved in the Constitution.

Let a full and free Representation of the People be chosen for an House of Commons.

Let the House chose by Ballott twelve, Sixteen, Twenty four or Twenty Eight Persons, either Members of the House, or from the People at Large as the Electors please, for a Council.

Let the House and Counsel by joint Ballott chuse a Governor, annually triennially or Septennially as you will.

Let the Governor, Council, and House be each a distinct and independant Branch of the Legislature, and have a Negative on all Laws.

Let the Lt. Governor, ~~Secretary~~, Treasurer, Commissary, Attorney General and Solicitor General, be chosen annually, by joint Ballott of both Houses.

Let the Governor with Seven Councillors be a Quorum.

Let all Officers and Magistrates civil and military, be nominated and appointed by the Governor, by and with the Advice and Consent of his Council

Let no Officer be appointed but at a General Council, and Let Notice be given to all the Councillors, Seven days at least before a General Council.

Let the Judges, at least of the Supreame Court, be incapacitated by Law from holding any Share of the Legislative or Executive Power, Let their Commissions be during good Behaviour, and their Salaries ascertained and established by Law.

~~Let the Governor have the Command of the Army, the Militia, Fort &c~~

Let the Colony have a Seal and affix it to all Commissions.—

In this way a Single Month is sufficient without the least Convulsion or even Animosity to accomplish a total Revolution in the Government of a Colony.—

If it is thought more beneficial a Law may be made by this new Legislature ~~causing~~ to the People at Large the Privilege of choosing their Governor,

and Committees annually, as soon as affairs get into a more quiet Course

...

In Adopting a Plan, in some Respect similar to this human Nature would appear in its proper Glory exerting its own Dignity, pulling down Tyrannies at a single Exertion and erecting Such new Fabricks, as it thinks best calculated to promote its Happiness.

As you was the last Evening polite enough to ask me for this Model, if such a Trifle will be of any Service to you, or any gratification of Curiosity, here you have it, from, Sir your Friend and

humble Servant

John Adams

Richard Henry Lee Esqr.

(1082)

Gentlemen . Wm.sburg Nov.r 3d 17.R 1775

As the Committee of Safety had adjourned before your Letter arrived here & of Consequence no Answer could be had from them, I have taken the Liberty of writing what I conceive to be at least the Substance of what they would have written.

There was as far as I can discover no Foundation for the Report you mention; but unhappily, last Night an Express arrived in Town bringing an Account, that on Monday last Lord Dunmore, having heard that a large Body of our Forces were marching to Norfolk under Col. Woodford, marched at the Head of 350 Men consisting of Soldiers Sailors Negros & Scotchmen, to the great Bridge to destroy it & prevent the Passage of our Men - that he effected this, & then went in pursuit of 150 Militia of Princess Ann who had imprudently (induced by a false Report) marched to join Col. Woodford who was at that Time with a Part of his Regiment in Wm.sburg.

that this Party came up with our Militia,
who defended themselves with Bravery, but being
overpowered by Numbers were totally defeated
several killed & others taken Prisoners, among
whom was Col. Joseph Hutchings -
This Affair I hope will serve to rouse up
our Country men, & will serve to lead our
Enemies into such another Scrape as they
ran into at Hampton - The Committee
had resolved a Month ago to send down the
2d. Regim.t & the Culpeper Batalion of Minute
Men to Norfolk - but for want of Arms Tents
&c &c they were unable to march, the whole
of them til the Day before yesterday - A De-
=tachment posted Ja.s River about to Day
since under Major Spotswood, & were ordered
to halt at Cobham til joined by the Col. &
Remainder of the Forces - This Junction was
delayed several Days for want of Necessaries,
& several more by high Winds & the Interposition
of the King Fisher & several Tenders which
obliged our Men to cross the River higher up
than was at first intended - This Delay for

Want of proper Arms he has been very mortifying to us, & has proved fatal to our friends in the Neighbour-=hood of Norfolk - Purdie's Paper contains a particular & true Account of what has been attempted by the Men of War & Tenders & what has passed between them & our Men here - The naval & Land Forces of L.D. are as described in a Letter from the Committee by the last Post - The Committee of Safety would gladly have written you an Account of the State of Affairs here by every Post - had they not been hindered by a Multiplicity of Business -

As I intend to reside here with my Family I will transmit you any Intelligence worth your Notice & shall be proud to receive your Commands with Respect to procuring such as as you may desire to receive - My Health will not permit me to write but a few Lines - I have therefore scribbled to you in Haste what I am unable to transcribe - you will excuse my Scrawl & Blunders & believe me to be with the greatest Respect Yr. most obed.t Serv.t John Page -

(No 82)

John Page
in behalf of the Com. of Safety
to
Va Delegates in Congress
Nov. 14th 75.

Determine Specifick Means for Bridge
Effect Reduction with Speed

No 325.1

John Page
1775
No 325

Sir, Philadelphia 24th of Nov. 1775

As the contents of the inclosed paper concerns our common Countries, I have thought it my duty as a Delegate to Congress from Virginia to inclose it to you by the first opportunity. As Salt is now much wanted in Virginia and the Country has been favored with a plentiful crop the last season, it will be very convenient for both Countries that your Island furnish that article quickly as possible, and to the full amount permitted by the resolution of Congress. The restraining Act of Parliament of the last Session does not interfere with you in this business, yet it will be prudent to make use of quick sailing Vessels, and if a few guns & men are put on board to keep off the small Tenders in Chesapeak Bay, that are every now & then committing Acts of piracy, they might be of service. It will be the most safe to run immediately up York, Rappahannock, or Potomack, as the Men of war generally lye in Hampton road or about Norfolk. The Committee of Safety sits constantly, and means will be taken to give all possible dispatch to your business in Virginia. My haste

I write in great haste, and

(No 85)

R. H. Lee to Henry Tucker
Nov. 24th 1775

Nov. 25. '75

Dear Lee

I had the pleasure of an answer from you lately, & that you may believe I am becoming a better correspondent, & appear before you again. It is not now however to dispute politically, a truce to those debates perhaps by people so little informd as I am they are best avoided. Since I saw you I have received one of the most friendly letters I ever received in my life & to be sure one of the most agreable. It was from our ever respected friend & father D. Cullen. who with his usual politeness & most friendly warmth reproaches my silent & ungrateful pen. I purpose immediately to say to him as well as I can how truly & sincerely I love him, but before I write I could wish a slight social memorial might be forwarded to him. I on this occasion thank you & desire you will tell me, if you can by means of a reputable Fishmonger or some other such person

of whom from your intimacy with the Court of Aldermen
you may have due knowledge, forward by the Ship to Leith
inclosed in a tin Case or some other secure preservative
a Collar of realy good Canterbury Brawn such as
you would yourself being in the Chair of the L. Mayor
wish to have before your presence. It occurs to me that such
a thing if genuine might not be unacceptable at
Edenburgh. & if so, any expences concerning it I will
gladly discharge. If you think in the same way I shall
be much obliged by your assistance. The bill of expences
I will take care to discharge, & give you credit with
our valuable friend for your share in the memorial.
I have not time at present to dwell on any other subject
for Mrs Smith is much indisposed with the
prevailing Influenza (if you please). I hope you are
well write to me a line concerning the above &

send me a frank or two for you or directions how to
inclose to you

The process we were puzzled about I believe I now better
understand it was the gilding of Copper you remember
by an Amalgam of Gold by addition of Sal. fortis to
it. Some Shells & the Amalgama the use of this last
I did not rightly perceive but I am since informed it acce-
lerates the union of the Amalgam & the Copper by
depositing any calcined Copper on the surface of the Shells
& thereby giving occasion to the immediate application
of the amalgam & the Metal &c.
not altogether satisfied that this is the right Theory of the
process, I will take an opportunity of investigating it more
minutely - perhaps the heat that is generated by the
action of the Acid on the Metal may come in for a share

adieu & believe me your very affectionate Friend

J. Smith

Penn.a Nov. 25.th 1775

Dr T. Smith
(of Birmingham)

Nov. 25th 1775.

(Nw: 404.)

Cambridge 27 Nov. 1775 (103

Dear Sir

Your favour of the 13 inst. & the Inclosures for which I thank you I came to this place on Wednesday Evening; part of which that is the Night I was engaged with a party of Men throwing up a work upon a Hill called Cobble Hill; which, in case we should ever be supplied with such things as we want, Ducca, Boom useful to us, & could not be delayed as the last here in getting as far as Roxbury, & the early departure of the Post prevented my giving you this Letter an answer the next Morning. —

In answer to your enquiries respecting of Arm'd Vessels, there are none of any tolerable force belonging to this Government — I know of but two of any kind — those very small — at the extraordinary expence I have fitted out

Sea

Six for the Inclosed list, two of which are upon the Coast, directed by the Captain of the Post ply about Capes Cod & Ann. as yet to very little purpose. — These Vessels are ab. Man'd by Officers & Soldiers (except Sloop a master, Pilots &c.) but how Long, as they are upon the old Establishment, which has not more than a Month to run, they can be ord'd off this Station I wish not undertake to say but suppose they might be employed a Month — Belonging to Providence there are two Arm'd Vessels, & I am told Connecticut has one which, with one of those from Providence are, I believe, upon the Cruize you have direct ed. — I have no Idea that the Troops can remove from Boston this Winter to a place where no provision is made for them, however we shall keep the best look out we can, & upon that, & every occasion when practicable, give them the best we have. —

but their situation in Boston gives them but little to appretend from a parting blow whilst their Ships can move, & floating Batteries surround the Town.

Nothing of Importance has happened since my last — I am glad to find that our noble Son has, at length, met with a check — was one of our Bullets cut for him. The world would be happily rid of a Monster without any person sustaining a loss. — This is my opinion at least. — It gives me great pleasure to hear that the Ohio Indians have entered into a perm treaty of friendship with us; for I had been informed that they were very restless, & had destroyed the Houses &c upon the Great Kanawa, & that the Improvements which I had been making there to save my Lands, valued at £1568. 18. 7½ were all destroyed, as far as they could be so by Fire — the last I believe

leave to see me, as I have it from Mr. Lund Washington who lives with me, who adds, by the last Post, and that the Indians had also destroyed the Fort which was built last year at the mouth of the Great Kanhawa. —

For Godsake hurry the Sinews of War, that our wants may be supplied — it is a very singular case that their Congress cannot keep pace with our demands — I heartily congratulate you and the Congress on the Reduction of St. Johns — I hope all Canada is in our possession before this — No acct. from Arnold since those mentioned in my last letter to the Congress — Would it not be politic to invite them to send Members to Congress? — would it not be also politic to raise a Regiment or two of Canadians & bring them out of the Country? — they are good Troops, & this would be extending of them heartily in the cause — My best regards to the good Families you are with — I am very affectly Yrs. &c. Sincr.

G. Washington

Dear Madam, Philadelphia 29th Nov. 1775

As a good Christian properly attached to your native Country, I am sure you must be pleased to hear, that North America is not fallen, nor likely to fall down before the Images that the King hath set up. After ten years of abuse and injury on one side, & modest representation on the other; Administration at length determine to try if the sword cannot effect, what threatening Acts of Parliament had in vain attempted; That is, the ruin of the just rights and liberty of this great Continent. Lexington, Concord, and Bunkers Hill opened the tragic scene; and clearly proved to the whole world that N. America had no reliance but on its own virtue in Arms. The battle of Bunkershill, tho followed by strong reenforcements, has not enlarged the prison of the Ministerial Army many paces.

was after the clearal of troops that the Quebec
Act was going to be carried into effect by marching
an Army of Canadians &c into these Colonies, and when every
attempt had been made to bring the Savages on
the defenceless women and Children along our
extensive frontiers; it became high time, on
principles of self preservation, to avert the medita-
=ted. The war was therefore sent into their own
Country, having first, by proper Agents and Memo
=rials, explained to the Inhabitants of Canada
and to the Indians, the views and objects of the
United Colonies. Success, equal to the justice of the
cause, has followed this undertaking. With indefati=
=gable zeal 3000 Men crossed Lake Champlain
and laid siege to Fort St. Johns, which place,
they to Canada, had been made very strong by
Gov.r Carlton, and garisoned with 500 regular
Troops and 100 Canadians. During this seige,
a detatchment from the Army pierced further
into the Country, invested, and took fort Chamble
(between St. Johns & Montreal) that was garisond

by, about 80 Regulars. Gen. Carleton having by this time collected about 800 Men, marched to the relief of St. Johns, when 600 of the Am. Troops met and defeated him. This was presently followed by the surrender of St. Johns, with all the Garison prisoners of war, and there they found a plentiful supply of military stores. A rapid march to Montreal was next made, and yesterday brought the account of the surrender of that Town to General Montgomerie on monday the 13th instant upon condition that the people should quietly enjoy their religion and not be molested in their property. Gen. Carleton had escaped down the St. Laurence with 2 or 3 Vessels, but it was expected he would fall into the hands of Colo. Arnold, then at Quebec, to which place he had penetrated with 1000 men by the rivers Kennebec and Chaudiere. No doubt is entertained here, but that this Congress will be shortly joined by Delegates from Canada, which will then complete the union of 14 provinces. Thus have the evil machinations of an unprincipled Administration, by turned greatly to the honor and security of the people they meant to ruin. The proclamation that followed the receipt of so humble a petition has

determined the Councils of America to prepare for defence with the utmost vigor both by sea & land. Altho' upon the former of these elements, America may not at first be in condition to meet the force of G. Britain, yet Hercules was once in his Cradle, so, time and attention, will, under the fostering hand of Liberty, make great changes in this matter. The knowing Ones, are of opinion that by next Spring, so many Armed Vessels will be fitted out, as to annoy our enemies greatly, and to afford much protection to the Trade of North America. It is wonderful what great benefits have already been obtained by the infant efforts of some Colonies in this way. Whilst this Country abounds in Wood, iron & Artizans, whilst a soil and Climate fitted for the abundant production of Hemp is possessed by an industrious people, strength on the sea cannot long be wanting. The Congress has ordered a suspension of all exportation for a certain time. This looks like men to the West Indies,

and the almost infinite distress that these Islands will feel in a short time is realy shocking to hu= =many, but in this case, charity must begin at home, and the Liberties of North America be at all events secured.

The animation and perseverance that the spirit of Liberty and resentment furnishes was well displa in the seige of St Johns. It was a wet and cold season, and the Men thinly clothed, the ground so low and wet on which they were placed, that they were compelled to lay heaps of brush, and weeds on the Ice of the brush, that they might sleep out of the wate at night. In this horrid situation they vigorously prosecuted the seige for 47 days, when the Garison surrendered prisoners of war.

Lord Dunmores unparalleled conduct in Virginia has, a few Scotch excepted, united every Man in that large Colony. If Administration had searched thro the world for a person the best fitted to

ruin their cause, and procure union and success for these Colonies, they could not have found a more complete Agent than Lord Dunmore —

We regret not having heard from England since early in September, but our Congress disregarding this, are proceeding with vigor, perseverance, and judgement in effecting the great purpose for which they were appointed.

You know the Writer of this Letter well and therefore it is unnecessary to sign it, as it would be to assure you of his affection and esteem for your whole self, and all your connections. We hope all are well at St Bees and that proper care will be taken of them in this tempestuous season.

The last Post produces a proclamation from Ld Dunmore declaring Liberty to the Slaves and proclaiming the Law martial to be the only law in that Colony — And all this he says is done "in virtue of the power and authority to me given, by his Majesty" Is it possible that his Majesty could authorize him thus to

remedy evils which his Lordship himself had created? I would have inclosed you a copy of this curious proclamation, had I not feared it would too much increase the size of this packet —

The inhumanity with which this war (unpro=voked as it has been on this side) is prosecuted, is realy shocking. The Americans — A few days since, in the midst of winter, that northern climate, did Gen Howe turn Madam, out of Boston between two & three hundred Women and Children without even the necessaries of life — Some of them died on the water side before their hospitable Country=men could relieve them — This cruelty is the more unpardonable, as these unhappy People have been by violence detained in Boston until now, contrary to the faith of a most positive agreement entered into between the Town & Gen. Gage —

The inclosed printed papers will shew you Madam how successful the cause of Liberty has been in Canada. No doubt is entertained of Quebec & Gov.r Carleton

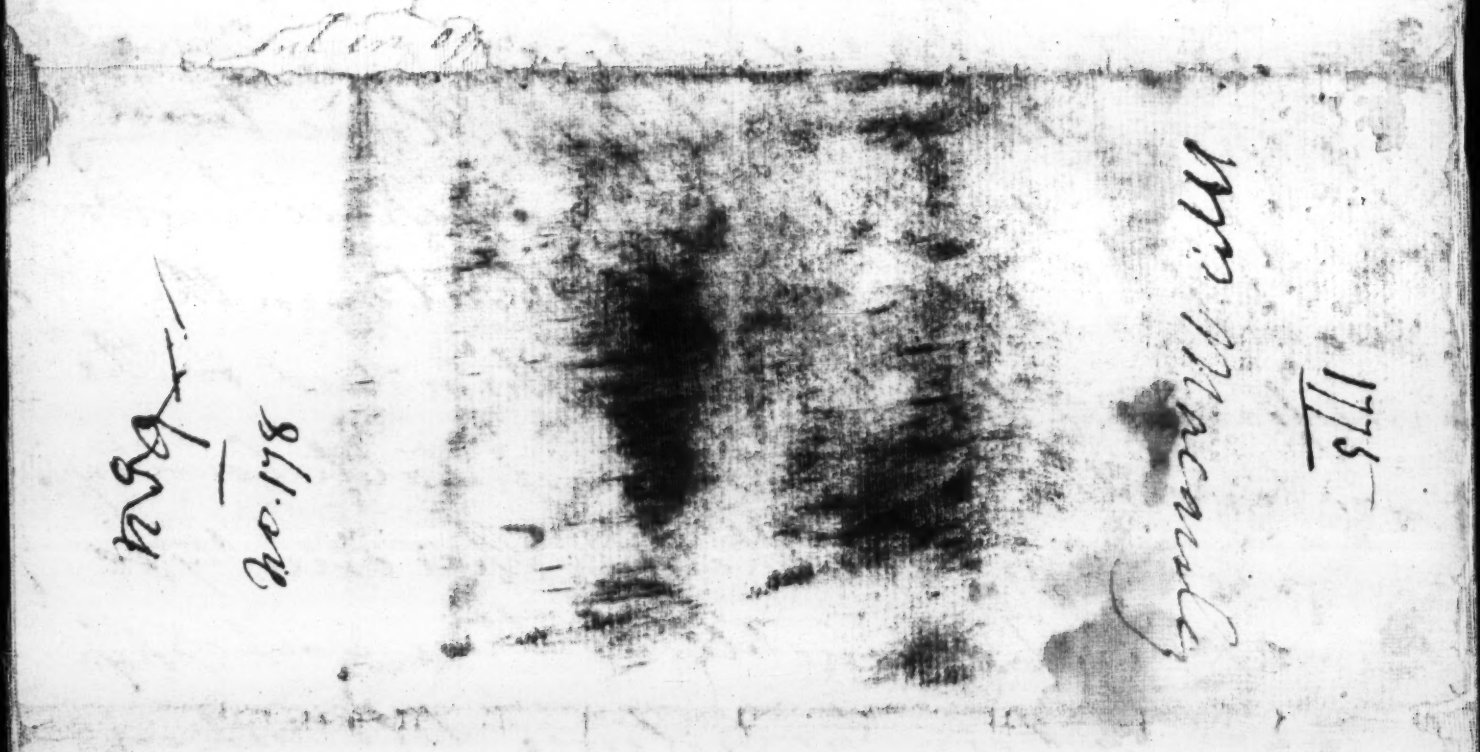
(No 85)

R H. Lee to Wm Macauley.

having fallen into the hands of Gen. Montgomerie & Col. Arnold. A Valuable Cargo. one Ship is just fallen into our hands, & the Stores now at our Camp at Cambridge The Ship is the Nancy Brig

Nov. 24th 1775

(No 178.)



No 178

Wm Macauley

1775

(N°23)

Sir, Phil.a 30 Nov.r 1775

We have the honor to be appointed by the Congress a Committee of Correspondence with the friends of America on the other side of the — Our institution is with design to preserve secrecy, & thereby secure our friends, whose suppose may be endangered and alarmed by the late proclamation. It is considered as of the utmost consequence to the cause of Liberty, that an intercourse should be kept up, and we shall be obliged by your sentiments of the most probable and secure method of effecting it — Any thing should be certainly resolved on which you may think much concerns America to be apprized of, we shall consider it within the power of our appointment to pay the expence of an Express Boat, if you can provide one under proper cautions. We are Sir your most ob.t

Copy of a Letter from the Committee of Secret correspondence to Dr Lee

servants —

soon after the first institution of this Committee — its members then were Dr Harrison, Dr Franklin, Mr Dickenson, Mr Johnson, Mr Jay — The superscription then requested was entered upon by Dr Lee, and one of his dispatches being committed to the care of Mr Carmichael, he with Mr Deane in concert opened, and detained this dispatch for twenty days, and made use of its contents to create enemies to Dr Lee — Dr Franklin knew of this procedure and expressed not his disapprobation, but on the contrary continued the patron, friend, and intimate of Mr Deane — The Congress being made thoroughly acquainted with this whole procedure, instead of censuring the authors of an injury done to their pledged faith, were not only silent, but rewarded Mr Deane, and advanced Mr Carmichael to an office of high trust.

Nov 30 — '75

Secret Committee to Arthur Lee
Nov. 30th 1775

(p. 23)

Committee of Congress
Secret
Nov. 30. 1775
A. L. 1775

No 522

Whereas by the blessing of almighty God, & the industry enterprize & courage of Several of the People of this Realm, Extensive & valuable territories have been acquired in America to the Crown of great Britain, which are now inhabited by great Multitudes of his majestys Subjects, who have cultivated and improved the Same for the most part at their own charges, to the great increase of the Commerce & naval Strength of this Kingdom, and have also, of their own free gift, made provision for the support of the Civil Government within their s.d Plantations, have maintained many expensive Wars against the Indian nations, and have at Sundry times granted large Sums of money and other very considerable aids to his majesty, and his Royal Predecessors, to support them against the Enemies of this Kingdom; notwithstanding which, the inhabitants of the s.d Colonies have been made liable to Several Taxes given and granted in Parliament for the Purpose of raising a revenue, when they have had no Knights or Burgesses or others of their own chusing, to represent them in Parliament; & from the great distance of the s.d Colonies from this Land, & other impediments, are not able conveniently to send Representation to the said Parliament, whereby the s.d Inhabitants of the British Colonies have conceived themselves to be much aggrieved, & thereby great troubles have arisen & are likely to continue, if a fitting remedy be not provided. Whereupon we pray your Majesty that it may be enacted & declared, and it is hereby enacted and declared by &c.&c.&c.

That no aid, Subsidy, Tax, Duty, Loan, Benevolence, or any other Burthen, or Imposition whatever, shall be granted, laid, assessed, Levied or collected upon the inhabitants of any Colony or plantation in America by authority or in virtue of any act of Parliament, or in any other manner or by any other authority, than the voluntary grant of the Gen.l Assembly or Gen.l Court of Each Colony or Plantation, & which Shall be assented to by his majestys Governour & other wise confirmed according to the usage of each Province

respectively, any Law Statute, Custom, Right, Prerogative or any other matter whatsoever to the Contrary notwithstanding, Saving to his Majesty his Heirs & Successors his Right of reserving & collecting Quit Rents Duties & other his antient Dues & Revenues & all other Duties & Taxes by this act not repealed, & saving and reserving to all Proprietorys & Charter Companys their antient Rights Privileges & ~~Exemptions~~ Possessions

Provided always, that nothing in this act contained shall extend or be construed to extend to restrain the future imposition & levy of Duties & Taxes for the regulation of Trade & commerce in all the Dominions to the imperial Crown of this Realm belonging.

And in order to remove all doubt & uneasiness from the minds of his Majesties Subjects in the Colonies, It is hereby further enacted, that if any act of Parliament shall be hereafter made for the purpose of such regulation or Trade, the produce of the Duties thereby laid shall be paid by the Collectors or Receivers of his Majesties Customs for the disposal of the Gen.l Assemblies as if the same had been levied by the authority of the several Gen.l Assemblies in the S.d Colonies.

And whereas during these troubles the Assemblies or Inhabitants of the said Colonies have formed a Gen.l meeting which S.d meeting was not authorised by Law to make any order or Resolution or to do any other act of force to bind his Majesties Subjects. And whereas it may be necessary that the said Colonies should have authority to do certain acts by common consent which should conclude the whole body of the S.d Colonies. Be it therefore enacted that it shall and may be lawful for his Majesty his Heirs and Successors to give authority to his Governours in America, to require the S.d Gen.l Assemblies to send Deputies to a Gen.l meeting with full powers to bind the said several Provinces to all acts done by a majority of Voices in the S.d Gen.l Meeting. which meeting & the powers thereof shall cease and determine on

if not further continued by Parliament.

And Whereas in consequence of the late troubles Sev.l Acts of Parliament have been made for the purpose of coercing & restraining the Colonies, of which an advantage has been taken to represent the same as if a design had been formed to deprive the people of the Sd Colonies of Sev.l Rights, Benefits and Advantages of nature and of the British Constitution which hath greatly encreased the discontents of the Colonies and fomented the troubles in America. In order therefore to Quiet the minds of his majestys Subjects in America and to reclaim the disobedient by that lenity which ought to have the strongest operation on the minds of free Subjects— "Be it enacted That an act "made in the 4th Year of the Reign of his present Majesty, intituled an act "for granting certain Duties in the British Colonies and Plantations in "America, for allowing a draw back of the Duties of Customs upon the "exportation from this Kingdom, of Coffee and Cocoa Nutts, of the produce of the "said Colonies or Plantations; for discontinuing the Draw backs payable on "China Earthen Ware exported to America; & for more effectually preventing "the clandestine running of goods in Sd Colonies & plantations" also one "other act made in the 14th Year of the Reign of his Present Majesty "intituled an Act to discontinue in such manner & for such time, as are "therein mentioned the landing and discharging, lading or shipping of "Goods, Wares, & merchandize at the Town and within the Harbour of Boston "in the province of Massachusets Bay in north America" also one other act "made in the 14th year of his present majesty, intituled "an act for the impartial "administration of Justice in cases of persons questioned for any acts done by them in y "Execution of the Law or for the Suppression of riots and tumults in the province "of Massachusets Bay in New England" and also one other act made in the 14th "year of the Reign of his present majesty intituled "an act for the better "regulating the Government of the Province of Massachusets Bay in new England"

be hereby severally & respectively repealed

And the Kings most excelent Majesty taking into his gracious consideration the great troubles, discords & wars that have of late been in some of his majesties Colonies in America, & that divers of his Subjects are, by occasion thereof & otherwise, fallen into & be obnoxious to great pains & penalties; out of a charity & pious desire to put an end to all suits & controversies that by occasion of the distractions in America have arisen or may arise between his Subjects; & to the intent that no crime whatsoever committed against his Majesty, shall hereafter rise in Judgment, or be brought in question, against any of them, to the least endangerment of them, either in their Lives, Liberties, or Estates, or to the prejudice of their reputations; & to bury all seeds of future discords, remembrance of the former, as well in his own breast, as in the breasts of his Subjects one towards another; is graciously pleased that it may be Enacted &c &c.

That all & all manner of treasons, misprisions of treasons, murders, felonies, offences, crimes, contempts & misdemeanors, committed, commanded, aided or done since the [illegible] by any person or persons in America before the [illegible] by virtue or colour of any command power, authority, commission, warrant or instruction, from his Majesty, or from any other person or persons deriving or pretending to derive authority, mediately or immediately, from his majesty, or from any pretended Council, general Court, Convention, Congress, or Meeting, in any of his majestys Colonies, in America, called or reputed, or taking on them the name of the Assembly, Council or general Court, of any of his majestys Colonies in America, or of a general Congress or Provincial Congress, or any other name or style whatsoever, or by virtue or colour of any Writ, commission or instructions of or from any person or persons, reputed or taken to be, or claiming or exercising the power of Com-

mander in chief of the continental army in America, or of any provincial army or commanders of any army or body of troops whatsoever within any of his majestys colonies in America, by sea or land, or of any magistrate or reputed magistrate or officer, within any of the sd colonies, or by any pretence, warrant, or command whatsoever, from them or any of them, or their or any of their respective council or councils or any member of such council or councils, or from any person or persons whatsoever deriving or pretending to derive authority from them or any of them or any of them, be pardoned, released, indemnified, discharged & put in utter oblivion.

And that all and every the person & persons acting, advising, assisting, abetting & counselling the same, they, their Heirs, Exrs. & admrs., be & are hereby pardoned, released, acquitted, indemnified & discharged from the same; & of and from all pains of death, and other pains, Judgments, Indictments, Informations, convictions, attainders Outlawries, Penalties, Escheats and forfeitures, and every of them, & all grants thereupon made, and all Estates derived under the same, be & are hereby declared and Enacted to be from hence forth null and Void, extinguishing all actions, suits, & demands & prosecutions, civil or criminal, publick or private, except for the restoration of such Estates as have been seized, or shall be from the owners during the Troubles; and for restoring to them the sd owners the mean profits of the same.

Provided that arms not taken up by his majesties authority shall be laid down by our Subjects in the sd Provinces within

Bill for compos-
ing the present
Troubles, & for
quieting the minds
of his Majesty's Sub-
jects in America.
Moved by Edmund
Burke Esq.r Mem-
ber for the City
of Bristol.
Nov.r 1775

(No 23)

(№ 53) Pinckney &c.

Dear Sir Wmsburg Decr 7 & 9th 1775

It was so late when I receivd your Letter, & I have been so engaged in Business & surrounded by Company that I am scarcely able to tell you that I received it, & by no Means have Time to say how much I am obliged to you for writing it. But however much I am prest for Time, I can not conclude without lamenting the unhappy Situation of our Country. So defenceless is it that I am persuaded that a couple of Frigates with a few Tenders & only one Regiment might at this Time make as compleat a Conquest of all the lower Counties of Virginia as L.d D. has made of Princess Ann & Norfolk. Col. Woodford with 600 Men has been hitherto prevented from passing the Great Bridge on his Way to Norfolk by a Body of Negroes headed by Scotch Men & a few Regulars. & I make no Doubt that before he can pass, Norfolk will be made

impregnable by Land - it is capable of being strongly fortified on a small Neck of Land near Church - where it is said Ld D has for some Time past employed several hundred Negroes - The only way I conceive that Town can be taken without Cannon, must be, by taking Advantage of the Night & throwing into it by Water 3 or 400 resolute Fellows - & making a bold push at the Sloops of War at the same Time. I have mentioned this to several, but unhappily they call it a rash attempt & seem to be contented with the Expedition now carrying on under Col. Woodford - which if it should succeed can only force our Enemies on Board their Ships & oblige them to change the Scene of the War & spread their Depredations farther. - I wish to God we had a few armed Vessels - to take the Tenders we might very much distress their Ships by it. I approve much of your Hint of procuring them from Bermuda or the Northern Colonies. But most of the Committee & Convention seem to think

it in vain to attempt any Thing by Water. I think this may be attended with fatal Consequences - for if no Attempt of this kind is made before Reinforcements of Ships & Tenders arrive, the People will be most wretchedly dispirited & easily crushed - For my Part I think we should make a Point of keeping Possession of our Rivers, those excellent Chanels of Comerce & should strain every Nerve ~~to~~ in Struggle for the Dominion of the upper Part of the Rivers at least - 'Tis certain that 5000 Men can not defend our Coast against the Depredations of the Men of War & Tenders already here - but it is certain 500 Men in armed Vessels could easily take the whole Fleet -

I have scribbled on beyond what I expected & have encroached on your Time - I will therefore in charity conclude - but must first beg that when you write to General Lee you will present to him my Thanks for his Services, my Comp.ts & best Wishes - I am

Dear Sir sincerely & affectionately
yours John Page

(1080)

No 324

1775

Nov

No 324

(163 Jenifer
12 Dec.
75

Camp Dec.r ye 12th 1775

My Dr Freind—

I have just receiv'd your letter by Mr Baylies—
I am heartily glad that you have gone a Committee into
Canada, but like you think it might have been better
chosen Congress has certainly not the Marquess qualities
which according to Lo: Chesterfield and my observation
are so requisite to captivate the French — for Heavens
sake, My Dr Freind, why are you not more decisive?
wherefore are any of the Sea port Towns suffered to be
[illegible] with the Men of War [illegible] will frigate Mast
or even with a single cannot? Indecision ruin'd
us; this vaunted tenderness for the Sea Port Towns will
at least prolong the war and all its calamities—
it was indecision that has thrown your affairs
in Virginia into their present situation— had my
opinion been thought worthy of attention Lord Dun-

should have been disarmed of his teeth and claws. I propose seizing Pryor and all his Tories at N. York. I know if it was moved in congress his Excellency would be instantly apprized of it and of course the possibility of effecting it would not be left to us, in this persuasion I would have struck the stroke and applyed afterwards for your Majestys approbation. You will justly accuse me of self-conceit and egotism but I have not yet done. I propose therefore the following measures. 1st to seize every Governor Governess Man Woman Boy and enemy to liberty on the Continent, to confiscate their estates or at least lay on them heavy contributions for the publick. their Persons should be secured in some of the interior Towns, as hostages for the treatment of those of our party whom the Fortune of War shall throw into their hands. they should be allowed a reasonable pension out of their forfeitures for their maintenance

2dly— I propose — that N. York be strongly garrisoned and fortify'd or destroy'd—

3dly that a strong flying camp with not only able Officers at their head, but an Officer who has the reputation of being able in order to inspire the People with confidence, be kept about Hampton York or Williamsburg in Virginia another not quite so strong about Alexandria and a third strong one about Annapolis in Maryland—

4thly That Charlestown in Carolina shd be well secured—

5thly and lastly that if the Canadians desire it, that You spare no expence in supplying them with Arms &c &c my— but above all that You be extremely careful in the choice of Officers sent to that Country— that they be not only Men

of strict integrity - but of a frank open address: with elevated sentiments expressed in their manner I think such Men may be found with you more easily than in these Provinces, [illegible] you propose in your letter - for I never saw a People so universally destitute de Cœur de monde as these here - Mr Bodwin, as I recalled, is the only exception these propositions & before offered to a Member of your Congress with one other respecting the Constitution of your Army, here omitted -

Recruiting goes on here more briskly than I expected - the Men are strange mortals but they have virtue and many good qualities - adieu

My Dr Friend - Yours affectionately

R Lee

(No 84)

Dec 23d 75

My Dear Brother

I congratulate you on the honor of Virginia being fully restored, by the desastrous attempt of Dunmores troops on our lines at the bridge. He, & his maimed ragged crew, find no safety for themselves but by skulking on board the ships. The tories of Norfolk & inhabitants of Princess Anne Norfolk have forsworn their allegiance to Dunmore many of them after petitioning, & acknowledging the authority of convention, are now under the examination of a committee; amongst these are the two Messrs Moseleys, a Doctor Campbel, & Mat-

Phaup An express from Hampton this morning informs that Capt Barron of that place who commands an armed vessel in the service of the colony, has taken a tender of Dunmores with 16 men, & a vessel belonging to a couple of Tories in Norfolk with 2400 bushels of salt on board. Some other vessels belonging to these gentry, with the same commodity,

were taken before; by which you see that our infant attempts on the water have been also crowned with success. We have already provided a respectable little navy for James river, & are proceeding to take care of the other rivers. Most of the objects recommended in your letters have been already attended to, & encouraged. A Test is now before convention, which will oblige all those to decamp who are the objects of its rigour

Since writing to you on the subject of a naval ~~force~~ assistance from your way, the Liverpool, a frigate ~~of~~ pierced for 36 guns, but mounting only 28 & 24 arrived at Norfolk, together with a brig laden with naval & military stores, out three months & upwards from England. The intelligence says to them to have 400 men; — I suppose meaning seamen & marines. — I have just rec.d a line from my little woman, who tells me your Mrs. Lee is safely delivered of a fine girl, & that all are well at Chantilly. Of this I heartily give you joy. Give my love to all & believe me ever

Yr. affe. Thos. Ludw. Lee

Wms.burg December 23.d 1775.

[illegible]

Richard Henry Lee Esq.r

at

Philadelphia

Favr
A. Purdie

(№88) Dear Sir Ex. S. Va. Williamsburg 24th December 1775

I thank you for your favor of the 11th Inst. & hope ere this you are informed of the Reduction of Queba. Col. Arnold's Success there will have decisive consequences. The loss of a province which cost the People of Engd 50 Millions in the acquisition, will make them feel a truth, which it has long been the business of Administration to conceal from them. In the very uncertain State of our business, Military as well as Civil, it was impossible, that you could receive any material information from us by the last post. We have since that experienced a very agreeable change in our Situation. Lord Dunmore, with a rashness which has marked his whole conduct, has exposed the Ld Reg: to disgrace and ruin. [the Acct. which you will see in the papers of the action at the Great Bridge, is very exact. The consequences of that Action, have been such as our most sanguine wishes would have pointed out. a dispersion of those people in the Counties adjacent to Norfolk, who were unfriendly to our Cause, and a certain Security to our well wishers. We have in Town several of those inhabitants of Norfolk & Princess Ann who had joined the Governor. particularly Mess.

Phripp, Mosely, (Father & Son) & Dr Campbell. the conduct of the former appears to have been the consequence of their fears. the last mentioned, seems to have acted from very different motives. he is as artful as Vicious. The great cordiality which subsists between Colonels Howe & Woodford, promises good effects from their junction - The Vigilance of the two Captains Barron / Brothers / at Hampton has produced most essential advantages - they have secured about 4500 bushels (Salt) in different Vessels 2200 of which was the property of two of Lt Dr Norfolk friends, M Callester & Brown, who were promoted by him to the rank of Captains in his Regiment of Sables; this Regement is now dispersed, and the poor deluded Wretches are daily brought in to our Camp in great numbers, it is not yet determined how they shall be disposed of - Barron took a few days since, a tender with one White & 16 blacks, bound to the Eastern Shore, on a foraging business. The good services of Barron have been acknowledged by the house. When he is properly equipped we have much to expect from his diligence & abilities. Our present force at Norfolk may amount to 1500 men including the Carolinians - You will hear before

this that Six Regiments are Voted in addition to the other two. As it Seems probable that these Troops will be employed on Services not local, it is hoped they will be put upon the General Continental establishment - The field officers will be named next Week, & a list sent to the Congress for their approbation, - you will find in it, Some names which you may not have expected, particularly the Gentleman who commanded one of our Regiments ~~on the last War~~ - he has made an offer of his Services, and we are well assured his appointment, will engage great numbers, officers as well as Soldiers, who Served under him in the last War. [The Proclamation from Ld D. has had most extensive good consequence - Men of all ranks, resent the pointing a dagger to their Throats, thro the hands of their Slaves - Nothing could be more unwise than a declaration of that nature which involved his friends as well as those in the general danger - We have, however, no apprehensions on that Score - yet proper precautions will not be neglected]. The Naval force at Norfolk, consists of the Liverpool a very fine frigate of 36 Guns - the Otter & the

Kingfisher Sloops of War, the William, a prest Ship belonging to Gilbert Ross & Co. pierced for 22 Guns, & a Variety of Tenders & Small Craft. The Whole addition to the force there by the arrival of the Liverpool & a Store Ship with her, may amount to 800 Men, including the Ships Companys & Marines - As there do not now than 100 Men of the 13th Regt remaining, I cannot suppose that there is of every denomination above Seven or 800 hundred under Lord D's direction.

Most of the Council, resenting the late Proclamation, are determined upon an immediate answer to it, and from the language of the President & some others who have been in Town - We may expect they will give the deluded Publisher a Rowland for his Oliver. This business, will shew if there be any amongst that Body, Weak or Wicked enough to remain unmoved by such Conduct - if such there are you shall hear by the next Post. As the Weather has been very severe for some days past it is not supposed any of the larger Vessels will move from Norfolk - doubtless the Tenders & Small Craft will be pushed out in search of provision and fuel, which we have reason to

believe is exceedingly scarce with the fleet &
our Troops prevent their receiving any supplies
from Norfolk. The business of the Convention goes
on as usual, slowly, the great variety of matter
of course take a good deal of time, and tho we
are well agreed, as to what should be done,
we cannot adjust immediately the manner of
doing it. The ordinance for encreasing the
Army has been once read in the House, &
is now in its passage for the second time before the Committee; if
nothing unforseen happen I expect we may
rise by the last of the month. Gods kyan
health & happiness I am very respectfully

Dear Sir

Your Affe: & Obed. Servt.

Archibald Cary.

My compliments to
your associates - the
Families of those I know
are well.

(No 89)

1775

No 42

Archibald Cary
1775
(No 42.)

Richard Henry Lee Esq
in
Philadelphia

Cambridge 26th. Dec.r 1775.

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Dear Sir,

Your favour of the 6th Inst. did not reach this place till Saturday Afternoon. — The Money which accompanied it, came seasonably, but not (as it was so long delayed) in quantum Sufficit — our demands at this time being peculiarly great for pay, and advance to the Troops — pay for their Arms — Blankets &c.a Independant of the demands of the Commissary & Quarter Master General. —

Lord Dunmores Letters to General Howe &c.a are very fortunately fallen into my Hands, & Inclosed by me to Congress, with Let your Pretty Fully into his diabolical Schemes — If my Dear Sir that Man is not crushed before Spring, he will become the most formidable Enemy America has. — his Strength will Increase as a Snow ball by Rolling; and Faster, if some expedient cannot be hit upon to counteract the Slaves and Servants of the Impotency of his designs. — You will see by his Letters what pains he is taking to invite a Reinforcement at Jamaica there, & to Transplant the War to the Southern Colonies. — I do not think Congress this Winter will Ship Troops sufficient; nothing less than depriving him of Life or Liberty will secure peace to Virginia; as motives of Resentment

relative his conduct to a degree equal to the total destruction of the Colony.— I fear the destination of the Naval & Military! — it too well known to assure the design. — I have heard it spoke of in common conversation at this place a fortnight ago — and the other day was told, that two men of War going into the harbour at New York, supposed to have intended for the relief of the Asia, were ordered, & accordingly sailed immediately out, as it is imagined for Virginia. —

My letters to Lord G. will give you the occurrences of this place, I need not repeat them therefore in this place; but I must beg of you my good Sir to use your influence in having a Court of Admiralty, or some power appointed, to hear and determine all matters relative to Captures — for as matters are conducted here, I am plagued on this head, and how impossible it is for me to hear and determine upon matters of this sort when the facts, perhaps, are only to be ascertained at Ports 40, 50, or more Miles distant without prodigious trouble & expence — at any rate my time will not allow me to be a competent Judge of this business — I must also beg the favour of you to urge the necessity of appointing a Brigadier Gen.l to the vacant Brigade in this Army — the inconveniences we daily experience

for want of Corps is very great — much more
than the want of a Ler.o to a Regiment —
for there the next Officer in Command
does the duty; in a Brigade this may
not with propriety happen and seldom
or ever is done with any kind of regulari
ty — perfectly indifferent is it to me who
the Congress shall please to appoint to
these Offices, I only want it done that
business may go regularly on. —

I thank you for the Letter In
closed (from Lt.o Pendleton) but the
Gentlemen were so long on the Road
that I had for more particular Accts
of the transactions in Virginia before
it came to hand. —

My best respects to the good
Family you are in — & to your Bro
thers of the Delegation — and be assur
ed that I am Dr Sir Yr. Most Obed.t

& Affect.e Serv.t

G.o Washington

When will the
Dispatches between
Phil.a & this Campbe
Established? — I wish expec
ted that Letters to and from
me, by the Continental Post to pay Postage.

The Information respecting Connelly's Instruct
ons being conceald in the Tree of his Saddle may
be relied on — it came to me from Mr. Atkinson
the Midshipman who commanded the Sloop coming
to Boston & taken by us & who was Eye witness
to the device which he says was so well done
that he should not have been able to have dis
cover'd the place himself wherein the Instructions
were secreted without pulling the whole to

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to pieces — He wishes that no use may be made of his name — I believe the Intelligence was rather inadvertently communicated by Atherton to Capt. Matthews who acquainted me of it yesterday. —

26 Dec.r 1775

G. W.

about military affairs

Lt Col Richard Gridley Esqr
of Roxbury Camp
Prisoner at
Philadelphia

1781

Copy of Gen: Lee's Letter to Lord Percy

1775

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My Lord

Were your Ldship only a common Col. of a Regim[t], certainly I should not have given myself the trouble of writing, nor you the trouble of reading this Letter but as you hold so high a rank & will one day hold a still higher, I conceive it will not be impropper to address you, and in some measure to apologize for my seeming want of respect. Tho I have not waited on the Gen[l] for reasons which he cannot, I think, disapprove; I was not certain whether you might, in your military Capacity, consider my visit as improper: but as you are not merely a Soldier, but a Citizen of the first class & importance from a distinguished family & fortune, your exact property, and being destined by birth to be a Counsellor of the Nation, I think some explanation of my conduct not only proper but necessary; and I flatter myself that some how or other, your Ldship will not simply approve my conduct, but become a friend to the same cause. My Lord, I will venture to say, it is the Cause of Great Britain as well as of America: it is the Cause of Mankind. Were the principles of taxing Amer[a] without their consent, admitted, Great B. would that instant become the pecuniary influence of the crown, and the army of placemen & pensioners, would be encreased, that all opposition to the most iniquitous measures of the most iniquitous ministers, would be forever borne down. Your Ldship I am sure must be very sensible that the influence of the crown is already enormously too great, and that a very wicked use is made of it. On these principles every good Englishman, abstracted from any particular regard for America, must oppose the being taxed by the Parliament of Great Britain, or more properly by the first Lord of the Treasury: for in fact the Parl[t] and the Treasury have of late been the same thing. But, My Lord, I have besides a very particular regard for America; I was long among 'em, and I know 'em to be the most loyal, affectionate, zealous subjects of the whole Empire. Gen[l] Gage himself must acknowledge the truth of what I advance: he was witness thro' the Course of the last War, of their zeal, their ardour, their Enthusiasm, for whatever concerned the welfare, the interest and the honour of the Mother Country. When I see therefore the extreme of calamities attempted to be brought down upon such a people by the intrigues of such a couple of Scoundrels as Bernard & Hutchinson; when I see a minister, violent & tyrannical like North moving down whole communities merely to indulge his hereditary hatred to liberty and those who are attached to her, I think it the duty of every honest man and friend to Humanity to exert his utmost to defeat the diabolical purpose. That these people have been totally misrepresented at home; that they have been most unjustly and cruelly treated, your Ldship will, I make no doubt, be sooner or later convinced; but as from your present situation,

and many circumstances, you will not probably fall into the way of truth wherein as I could wish I beg leave to recommend to your perusal a sort of pamphlet lately sent from England: it is entitled "A true state of the proceedings in the Parl.t of G.B. and in the province of the Mass: Bay." Mr —— will furnish your Ldship with it, if you will make use of my name: it is a fair & candid relation of the whole process from beginning to end. When your Ldship has read it, you will be struck with compassion & horror, and I have great hopes, will become a not less warm but more powerful friend of this much injured country than myself. I take the liberty of recommending this method to your Ldship, as it is impossible you should get any thing but misinformation from the men who, I find, surround head quarters. The Jewells and Paptons are not only interested to misrepresent & calumniate, but to exterminate their country: there is no Medium: their country must perish, or they meet with the deserts of impious Parricides — it was the misfortune of Gen.l Gage from the beginning, to fall into such hands as these; had he not been deluded by men of this stamp, we should never have seen him acting in a capacity so incompatible with the excellencies of his natural disposition. I must now my Lord, inform that as fools & knaves will from misunderstanding & malice, probably disfigure my conduct; you will not suffer them to make any wrong impressions; that you will be persuaded that I act not from ~~any~~ Pique & disappointment, which I conclude, will be insinuated, but from principle. I think, my Lord, an English Soldier owes a very great degree of reverence to the King as first magistrate & third branch of the Legislature, called to the mighty station by the voice of the people: but I think he owes still a greater degree to the rights & liberties of his country: I think his country is every part of the empire, that in whatever part of the empire a flagitious minister manifestly invades the rights & Liberties, whether in Great Britain, Ireland or America, every Englishman, Soldier or not Soldier, ought to consider their cause as his own, and that the rights & Liberties of this country are invaded every man who has Eyes, & is not determined to keep them shut, must see. These, my Lord, are my principles; from these, I swear by all that is sacred & tremendous, I purely & solely act. and these, I hope, will rather serve than prejudice me in your Ldps opinion. I flatter myself still further, I flatter myself that you, my Lord, before long will adopt them: that you will at least in your letters to your father, whom I have been always taught to consider as an honest man and a friend to humanity, endeavour to undeceive the people at home, if the delusion is not too strong. I can venture to affirm that you will feel some consolation amidst the calamities ready to fall upon your Country, in the Reflection that you have attempted to avert them. I shall now finish, my Lord, with intreating that if any thing appears impertinent, either in the matter or length of this Letter, you will attribute it to an intemperate Zeal in an honest cause, and that you will be assured I should not have addressed it to a man, of whom I entertained an unfavourable opinion.

I am &c.

General Lee's
Letter to Earl Percy
when the latter was
inclosed with the B. Army
in Boston
1775

(N°88.) 2d

Williamsburg

My Dear Brother

W.D.A. 1935

Your packet, with letters for Westm.d, was, by some accident, long getting to hands. However by sending a messenger forward, I found means to put it for you in the hands of the post ~~master~~ at Petersburg.

This letter was intended to remove your anxiety for the state of M.r Lee & the family at Chantilly. Our old captain & M.rs Oldham had been at our house a few days before, they were but just returned from a visit to their friends in your neighbourhood, & the family well. Of this I acquainted you in that same letter mentioned above; but which I perceive by your last dec.d here in Williamsburg, you never got hold of. [I send you enclosed a printed account of intelligence rec.d at Headquarters from our camp at the great bridge, about 20 miles from Norfolk, commanded by Lt. Col. Woodford. Our army has been

for

(for some time, arrested in its march to Norfolk by a redoubt, or stockade, or hogpen, as they call it here, by way of derision, at the end of this bridge.

Tho, by the way, this hogpen seems filled with a parcel of wild-boars, which we appear not over-fond to meddle with. My apprehension is, that we shall be amused at this outpost, until Dunmore gets the lines at Norfolk finished; where he is now entrenching, & mounting cannon, some hundreds of negro's being employ'd in the work. This consideration, added to the advanced season of the year, & the strong expectation, as we find by intercepted intelligence, of a reinforcement arriving every hour from St Augustine, made a bold & sudden stroke necessary, whilst we walk too cautiously in the road of prudence. — There were other passes into the neighbourhood of Norfolk.

We are now in convention & have already voted the raising six new battalions of the continental number, the two old battalions to be recruited to the same standard — these eight are expected to be on the

continental

continental establishment. The express, which brings you this go's with an application to congress for this purpose. It would seem indeed highly necessary, from the manner in which Dunmore has hitherto baffled all our endeavours, to put our military matters under some other direction.

If Philadelphia is in such a forward state of Naval preparation as report says, it would be in her power to render the most signal service to this colony, and thereby to the American cause. The naval force of ~~this~~ the enemy in this country consists of two sloops of war, the Otter, & Kingfisher, of sixteen six & four pounders, with their compliment of men indeed, one hundred & ten, but these much dispersed in tenders, & all except ten in the Kingfisher, & a few in the Otter, pressed men, disaffected to the cause, & unwilling to fight. Six deserters from the Kingfisher, examined last night, confirm these circumstances, which we were informed of before from other hands. A frigate of thirty guns, with metal proportionable, by coming into Norfolk river, would not only become master of these, but of Dunmore's ship &c. & a vast many other vessels loaded with the floating property of Tories, & seized cargoes, to the amount, as is said upon good grounds, ~~to~~ of £40000. There

gentry

gentry would, by such a stroke as this, be all taken in a nett.
(No 17) Thos L. Lee (No 19)
L.d Dunmores preparations be all torn up by the roots,
(Before the Battle of the Great Bridge)
& the plan of hostility for this country to be begun anew.

L.d Dunmore has ipsues his first Virginia Gazette
printed I think on board the William. It contains
his proclamation, the oath tendered to the people
of Princess Anne & Norfolk, his conquest over the
militia, & the letters of the Delegates intercepted by
Capt. Wallace.]

I shall be at home about the 20th of this month
and it will make me very happy if it be convenient
for you to come our way. If you take another
jaunt let me know when you get home.

I give my love to all with you, & tel my brother
F. I shall send the news to him next post
& thank him for his letter.

Yrs. affy
Tho.s Lud.s Lee

being so full as of late days I should. You have
seen the Kings speech, which you would, I suppose,
May 9 1781
convince every body of the bloody intentions of
the King & Ministry, but it is far from being the
case in this City; for there is a certain L.d Drummond
who persuades the fools who are gaping after a
reconciliation, that he is in the secret of the inner
Cabinet, that the sincere wish is, to make up with
America, upon her own terms, that even L.d Mansfield
is a warm friend to our cause. All this is so absurd,
that you will say, none but rank tories can pre-
tend to believe it, so should I, did I not find the
contrary, for you may be assured that many
friends & well meaning people are taken in, & cry
loudly for Congress to send deputies home. indeed
I am not without my fears, that Congress may be
somewhat affected. This day a motion was made to

from this measure by myself & some others.
(No 35)
You should be here as soon as possible, I mean with
tolerable convenience to yourself, for I see no prospect
of the Congress adjourning. nine batallions
are ordered for Canada, to march as quickly as they
can be raised. Bulls & Maxwells are two of them
who go off directly. Montgomeries last letter
informs us of his being before Quebec, confident of success. St Lawrence 57 tons of salt-
petre & 30 tons of powder & have intelligence
of a vessell with 15 tons & 2000 stand of arms
which is every day expected. My fleet is not yet
out of the River, but believe they have now no
obstruction, the Kings Ships have not received any
benefit as the pilots are sent home. Norfolk we hear is
destroyd, but we are anxious to know the fate of the
troops there. God bless you Farewell

R. H. Lee

1775

Dear Sir -

When I had the Honor of your Company and Acquaintance at Philadelphia you made it a Request that I would exert my poor Abilities in the honest Endeavour to keep my Fellow Citizens in the Line of their Duty their Interest and Honor I freely made you the Promise and I did honestly and faithfully perform it - -

I am informed that the Committee of this City have drawn up a Representation of Mr. Rivingtons Case for the Animadversions of that respectable Body of which you are a Member - The Consequence of this Step will undoubtedly strike your Mind. It is the giving a new Power to the Congress our Association hath given them the Legislative and this now tenders them the Judicial Supremacy -

The Temper of Governments as of Men is to be collected from small Instances Great Affairs are more the Objects of Reflection and Policy. Here both join - A mild and favorable Sentence will conciliate the Opinions of Mankind and what is the Force of Opinion a Gentleman who has made it his Study to investigate

investigate the Nature of Government need not be told — I will not pretend to offer you any Reasonings on this Subject because it will be tedious to repeat Things which strike your Mind at the first Glance. But I can venture to assure you that a favorable Sentence to this Creature will be highly agreable to most Men here —

The History of his Conduct is simply this. His Company his Acquaintances his Friends were warm Advocates for the Power of Government. Indifferently wise his Mind took a wrong Bias from Interest Revenue for the Sentiments of Men a Opposition — A Fool in Prosperity. A Coward in Adversity. He solicits the Assistance of that Body whose Press has asperged. Magnanimity will dictate to that Body the true Line of Conduct —

The Liberty I take in Writing to you can only be excused by the Intention I have to do Good This I trust will be a sufficient Apology for

Sir yours most obed.t

and humble Servant

Gouv Morris

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To

Richard Henry Lee Esq.

Philadelphia

Geo. Mason. 25 Aug. 1775

To the Kings most excellent Majesty

The humble Address & Petition,
of the Ld Mayor, Aldermen & Commons, in
common Council assembled.

Most gracious Sovereign

W^e Majesty's most loyal and
dutiful Subjects, the Ld Mayor, Aldermen &
commons of the City of London, in common
Council assembled, w^h all humility beg leave
to lay themselves at y^r royal feet, humbly
imploring y^r benign attention, to the grievous
distractions of their fellow Subjects in America:

The characteristic of the People, Sire,
over whom you reign, has ever been equally
marked for an unparalleled loyalty to their
Sovereign, whilst the principles of the Consti-
tution have been the ends of his government, as
for it from oppression, whenever their rights
have been invaded.

W^e American Subjects, royal Sir,
descended from the same Ancestors with ourselves,
appear equally jealous of the Prerogatives of
Freemen, without which they cannot deem
themselves happy.

Their cheerful & unasked for contri-
butions, as well as willing Services to the Mother
Country, while they remained free from the clog
of compulsory Laws, will, we are sure, plead
powerfully with the humanity of your disposition
for readily granting them every reasonable op-
portunity of giving as Freemen, what they
seem resolutely determined to refuse, under the
imposition of Laws made independent of their

own consent.

The abhorrence we entertain of civil bloodshed, & conjecture, will, we trust Sire, if not wholly exculpate us in your royal mind, yet plead powerfully in our favor, for the warmth with which we lament, those measures, the disastrous principles of which have driven our American Brethren to acts of desperation.

Convinced of the earnest disposition of the Colonists, to remain firm in all dutiful obedience, to the constitutional authority of this Kingdom, permit us most gracious Sovereign to beseech you, that those operations of force, which at present distract them with the most dreadful apprehensions; may be suspended; and that, uncontrouled by a restraint incompatible with free government, they may have an opportunity of tendering such terms of accommodation, as we have no doubt will approve them, worthy of a distinguished rank, among the firmest friends of this Country.

(1775) No date

If he does not do it he must look to
his [illegible]. This Town needs it, and has
directed the Committee of Correspondence to
enquire into this and other Conduct, and have
Depositions taken before Magistrates to be improved
as Opportunity may offer. A Change of Ministry
-ters and proper Representation, may reduce
a Tyrant, at least to the Condition of a private
Subject. The People are universally enraged,
but from the Dictates of sound Policy, their
Resentment is for the present restrained
Last Saturday, a Waggon going from this
Town into the Country, was stopped by the
Guards on the Neck, having nine Boxes of
Ball Cartridges which were seized by the Troops.
Application has been made by the General by
a private Gentleman who claimed them as his
Property. The General told him that he would
order them to be marked as such, but they
could not then be delivered. The Gentleman
told him that if they were not soon delivered
they would Recompense them elsewhere. I
may be satisfied that though the

"the General has completed his F[illegible]
at the only Entrance into the Town [illegible]
and our Harbour is still shut up" "our People
are in good Spirits", and I dare say: "the
Business of Discipline goes on well"

I have just received Letters from our
Friends in London, dated the 24. 26 and
28 Dec[r] and the 4[th] & 7[th] Jan[y] 7; some Extracts
from which I have thought it necessary to
have inserted in our publick News papers
as you see by the inclosed. One Paragraph
which alarms me, I have not disclosed to
any one; it is this. "I have been in the Country
with Lord Chatham to shew him the Petition
& the Congress of which he highly approves;
He is of opinion that a solemn Renunciat-
-ion of the Right to Tax on the one side,
and an Acknowledgment of the Supremacy
on the other, should accompany [illegible]
of all the Grievances, Acts [illegible]
Without this, he says, the Heads of
Countries will not openly embrace

[redacted] Offers and Resolutions"

[redacted] Sentences I think it is easy to see, that his Lordships Plan of Reconciliation is the same with that which he held forth in his Speech at the Time of the Repeal of the Stamp Act. However highly I think of his Lordships Integrity, I confess I am disposed to think, that he expects an Acknowledgment first from [redacted] that he expects an Acknowledgment [redacted] in Terms on our part. I imagine that after such Acknowledgment there may be a Variety of Ways by which Great Britain may accomodate us besides that of leaving us without our Consent. The Possibility of it should awaken our Apprehensions. Let us take Care, lest Americas in Lieu of a Thorn in the Foot, should have a Dagger in the Heart. Our united Efforts have hitherto [redacted]ed. This is not a Time for us to [redacted] Measures. Let us like prudent [redacted] improve upon our Success and push

(No 75)

Mark to perfect Intimacy & Friendship

S. Adams

Mr John Tilston a young Gentleman [redacted] my Neighborhood who owns the Vessel in which Capt Leighton returns, is also a Passenger on board. His Views are to form commercial Connections in Virginia. You will oblige me if I bespeak your favorable Notice of him, should he fall in your Way.

I am with sincere Regards [redacted]

Your affectionate Friend
and Countryman
Sam Adams

Sam Adams

Richard H. Lee Esqr

No 3

No date

Sir

I have ever esteemed the prudent judicious the intelligent and the g as a competent reward for sever with those sentiments you may imme that your polite letter and valuab afforded me great pleasure

I am very happy to find that there ry individual on the American Con endowed with a true liberal & pa bear the number of brave and gener zens are too few to stand against the of vice and (corruption) which has overflowed th

7

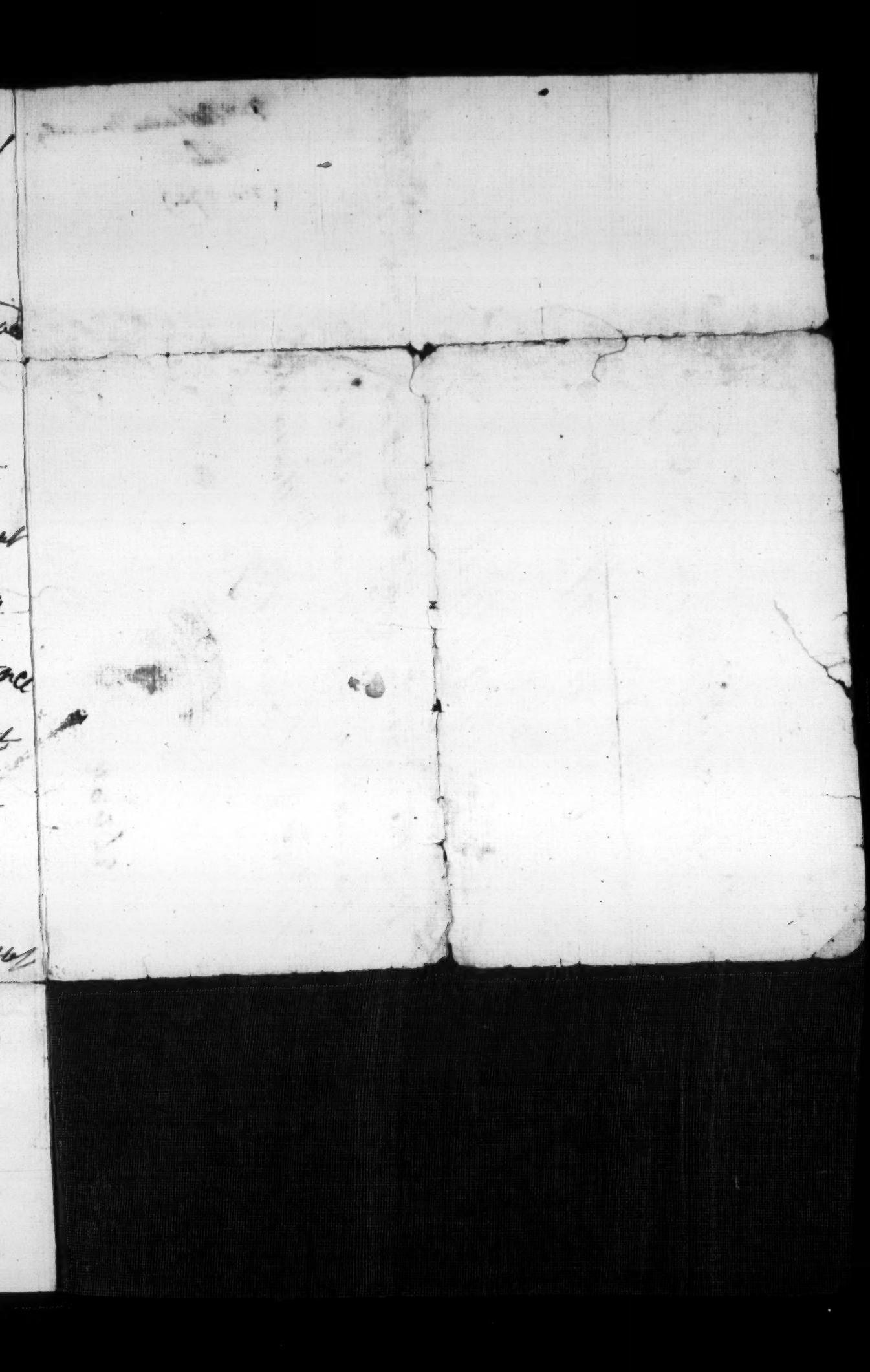
f empire If the Colonies had stood
d united in opposition they would not
only have preserved their privileges
launched them down to posterity improved
enlarged what may be the issue of
tyranny conduct I tremble to think on
Give me Sr yet would afford me great
ure to communicate my sentiments to you
son but as we are separated the distance
all three thousand miles must content
lf with assuring you by Letter that

Your Most Obliged

And most Obed Humble Servt

Catharine Macaulay

don
ers Street
ad Road



(No 3)

Mrs Catharine Macaulay
2 Letters
(No: 273.)

Mrs Catharine Macaulay

No 273

By the Lady of Sir Wm Walker
Governor &c &c &c Antigua

Mrs Catharine Macaulay

To
Richard Thomas Esqr &c &c &c

Catharine Macaulay

[illegible]don
[illegible]ers Street
[illegible]ad Road


South End 1 Boston 42
E. Part of Boston Harbour
Roxbury
Via Dana

364

No.	Weight of Metal	Quantity of Metal
1	24 pounder	100
2	do	100
3	12 do	75
4	6 do	100
5	6 do	100
6	12 do	60
7	12 do	36
8	12 do	8½
9	24 do	32
10	6 do	40
11	24 do	33
12	24 do	100
13	6 do	100
14	6 do	45
15	24 do	45
16	9 do	38
17	24 do	38
18	24 do	38
19	6 do	100
20	6 do	100
21	0	100
22	unfinished works	45
23	24 pounder	45
24	do	45
25	Eight 24 pounder	60
26	do	60
27	12 do	60
28	12 do	60
29	12 do	60
30	9 do	60
31	6 do	60
32	6 do	60
33	8 Twenty four pounder	60
34	6 pounder	60
35	6 do	60
36	12 do	60
37	12 do	60
38	12 do	60
39	9 do	60
40	6 do	60
41	6 do	60
42	To end of Barton	60
43	Fire Rafts to clean	60
44	do do	60
45	Dorchester pier	60
46	3 Blinds w 20 Musquets	60
47	Barons Houses	60
48	George Tavern	60
49		60
50		60
51		60
52		60
53	Block Houses	60
54	do do	60
55	picket Fence with Gates	60
56	a 13 Inch Mortar	60
57	3 8 Inch Howitz	60
58	1 8 do	60
59	2 do do	60
60	Stone Wall between the Road & Bay	60
61	carrying one Eighteen pounder	60
62	a Drawn Bridge	60

The Courses Distances &c of this Island taken from the Admiralty Chart by Lieut. Boulton

My Lord

Permit an individual unknown & undistinguished to thank you, in the sincerity of his heart, for your generous, tho' ineffectual attempt, to stay the uplifted hand of civil desolation. Your great name, will not be delivered down to posterity with more applause for [illegible] dereliction, than with so much spirited wisdom, the vengeance of this nation against its real foes; than for having endeavored, with equal humanity & prudence, to divert it from its truest friends.

Lord, &c. most truly, that in the heart of every American, the wish for the prosperity of England, is second only to that for the Liberties of his country. No proposition could be made to America in which they would not most zealously contribute their treasure & their blood, to maintain the honor & advance the prosperity of England, if it did not involve a violation of their dearest rights. Whatever may be their sense of the distresses of this country, whatever may be their wish to minister relief; when that cannot be done, without submitting their hands to chains, their necks to the yoke, they must be forgiven for the refusal.

When a series of accumulated injuries, have rendered the alternative slavery or subjugation, bonds or resistance — I speak it with exultation, I speak it with assurance, there are not a thousand Men, among the three millions spread abroad in America, who will hesitate one moment in the choice. Trust me, my Lord, they never will be slaves. They will not dishonour their venerated english Ancestry. To be enslaved, would stamp degeneracy & barbarism on their brows. Let the Demon of distinction, when he will may; he will find them, de. vota morti, pectora libera. Their struggles & their sufferings will they pose a light entitle them to the respect of their Country. Their real Cause commended, will warm the Soldier of his fellow purpose. The Sword of justice will hang like a millstone about his neck, & unsheathe his revolution will sheave his arm of his, for many years, unpaid service my humble but honest testimony, here the channel of the public papers, his Majesty's Ministers, & the loyal Americans of their arbitrary measures. At the same time, under the kind of doubt good have found them, not so much misled by ignorance, as to, now break in public. Not adopting desultory measures, but pursuing a premeditated, deep, and dangerous plan against the liberties of the People. I am prompted to address your Lordship, whose virtues for both Countries the same ardent zeal & love for the prosperity of each, which warmed your Lordship, like a guardian angel, to interpose, & endeavour to stop the most fatal conflict, that

Memoranda from
Mr. Temple

Mr Bowdoin & Col
Robinson Quarter
Master general, agreed
the Agreement was ra
tifyd by Genl Gage
that if the Inhabitants
wd deposit their Arms
in a secure place, they
shoud leave the town
with all their effects.
The People did deposit
their Arms with Per-
sons appointed by G. Gage.
& Mr Temple saw
6000 Stand so delivered
& they were still bring
ing them in. When this
was done G. Gage said
he did not mean they
shoud carry out their
Goods. Col. Robinson
declard to Mr Temple
that this was an after
consideration. Mr Tem
ple went to the General

(N13 The Heard Copy) (1)

Upon Sam.l H. Stockton's departure from America in 1775, in my other recommendatory letters, he rec.d the two following.

Copy of a letter to John Sawbridge Esq.r member of Parliament for the City of London. Dated from Phil.a in 1775.

"Dear Sir. Give me leave to introduce to your acquaintance Mr. Samuel Stockton a young gentleman of eminence in the law, who goes to England for the purpose of improving himself in his profession by his attendance at the Courts of Westminster hall.

His brother is a Judge of the Supreme Court & one of the Council for the Province of New Jersey — His family connections have distinguished themselves in supporting the rights of their Country. Your politeness & civilities to him will be considered as obligations conferred on Sir your most obed.t & very humble Serv.t R. B. Rush."

Copy of a letter to Mr.s Macaulay the historian & wife to John Sawbridge Esq.r Dated from Phil.a in 1775

"Madam The bearer of this Mr. Sam.l Stockton is a lawyer of eminence in this country and the brother of a gentleman who, with the office of a Judge & Counsellor in the Province of New Jersey, is a firm advocate of the claims of America. Your polite attentions to Mr. Stockton will add to the many obligations conferred on Madam your most obedient and very humble Servant R. B. Rush"

Upon Mr Stockton's leaving Engd in 1778, he rec'd among other letters the following.

Copy of a letter from Mr Sawbridge dated from New Burlington Street London May 10th 1778.

"Mr Sawbridge presents compliments to Mr Stockton wishes him a safe voyage, and congratulates him on his approaching return from a country of desolation, prostitution and despotism to one of virtue liberty, where he will be sure to meet that cordial reception which his uniform good conduct, in a difficult situation during his residence here, will entitle him to.

Mr Sawbridge begs Mr Stockton will present his best compliments to Doctor Rush, and acquaint, Mr Sawbridge will esteem himself much honored by a renewal of his correspondence whenever the communication is again opened between the two countries."

Samuel ~~Witham~~ Stockton Esqr

Copy of a letter from William Baker Esqr member of Parliament and a zealous & steady supporter of the liberties of America. Dated Hill Street, Berkeley Square London May 10th 1778.

"Dear Sir. I cannot suffer you to depart from England without expressing the great pleasure I have received in an acquaintance, which commencing by accident has since it's progress & improvement to our perfect agreement in opinion on those interesting matters of politics which have lately engaged the attention of the world. I am therefore happy in hearing testimony to your

very sensible & becoming conduct during a residence here under circumstances of great difficulty & embarrassment, and in doing justice to those sentiments & principles by which you have been uniformly actuated. Those sentiments & those principles, confined hitherto in their operation, could have an effect only proportioned to the narrow circle of private life to which they extended: You will now have an opportunity of exerting them in their full force, to the service of your country in a more public & enlarged scene. Feeling, as I do for the disgrace & humiliation of my own country, I have much satisfaction in reflecting on the successful struggle which has been made by yours: because it is much more consonant to the idea we entertain of a just providence, that an asylum should somewhere be found for persecuted freedom, than that the avarice & tyranny of a wretched faction should be gratified by a scheme destructive of the happiness of mankind.

The same magnanimity which determined your countrymen to resist this foolish & wicked attempt on their liberties, will inspire them with a more liberal turn of thought than to imagine that all the people of this island without distinction, have been leagued against them.

Shall this has ~~been~~ by no means been the case, you yourself are witness; and it is of some consequence that your countrymen should clearly know how the fact stands in this respect: because if ever we are to see peace restored & a connection of any kind formed between the two countries, it is the language of common sense that them & those only can be successfully employed in so desirable a work, who have constantly & conscientiously opposed the measures by which that peace has been interrupted and the former connection broken. I beg you to believe that it will give me a singular pleasure to hear from you whenever an opportunity offers, and that I am with real esteem Dear Sir your very obedient humble Servant. Wm. Baker"

Mr. Stockton, York Buildings.

Copy of a letter from Mr. Sam'l Wharton to Doctor Franklin Dated London May 16. 1778.

"Dear friend. The bearer Mr. Stockton, brother of your friend Richard Stockton Esquire of New Jersey, wishes much to be introduced to you. I have not had the pleasure of Mr. Stockton's acquaintance, but my brother is intimate with him, and assures me that upon all occasions from the beginning of the controversy between the United States and this

Mr. Stockton. Copy. Wharton.

Country, he has shewn himself a zealous & steady
asserter and supporter of the rights of America
man; I therefore be permitted to recommend Mr
Stockdale to your notice & protection? I am with
the greatest respect & esteem Dr friend yours most affectly
Sam: Shackleton"

To the Hon: Benjamin Franklin Esq: &c &c &c

Copy of a letter from Granville Sharp Esq: (author of the "Declaration of the rights of the people" and several other valuable tracts) to Dr Franklin Dated "Old Jewry London May 16th 1770."

"Dear Sir, The honour Mr Stockdale was recommended to me when he first came to England in a very particular manner, by a worthy friend of mine Dr Rush (with whom you are probably well acquainted) and his prudent conduct & good behaviour during his residence here have been such as must do credit to any recommendation: Give me leave therefore Dear Sir to request your attention & favour towards this Young gentleman as I believe he is a sincere friend to the general rights of mankind, and that his amiable disposition & good qualities also in other respects will engage your esteem & friendship if you are pleased to favor him with your acquaintance which will very much oblige Dear Sir your friend and most humble Servant Granville Sharp."

To the Hon: B. Franklin Esq: &c &c

Copy of a letter from G. Sharp Esq.r to William Lee Esq.r Dated "Old Jewry May 16. 1770."

"Dear Sir. The bearer Mr Stockton is a gentleman for whom I have a great esteem: he was recommended to me in a very particular manner when he first came to England, by Dr Rush, (who was an eminent physician at Philadelphia before the breaking out of the present unnatural war) and I have been happy in this young gentleman's acquaintance and friendship ever since, as I have all the reason in the world to believe that he is a sincere friend to the general rights of mankind, and also that in every other respect his behaviour & good conduct has been such as could not fail to secure to him the regard & esteem of all that have known him: I must therefore beg leave to recommend him to your friendship & good offices, and every civility that you are pleased to shew him will be considered as an additional favor conferred upon myself.

Had this letter been conveyed to you by any other person, I should have been tempted to extend the length of it by communicating my opinion on several interesting subjects; but as Mr Stockton is the bearer that labor would be entirely superfluous; for he is well acquainted with my sentiments on these topicks & can much more easily communicate them by word of mouth. Wishing you health & much happiness I remain with great esteem & regard Dr Sir your affectionate friend & obed.t humble Servt. Granville Sharp."

William Lee Esquire.

A true copy. [illegible]

(No 89)

Dear Sir Bordentown Jany 6. 1776

Enclosed is an original Letter containing instructions from Genl. Howe to Colonel de Donop. I beg you would lay it before Congress. Perhaps it would not be amiss to publish a translation of it. The inhabitants of those villages in which the Hessian troops were quartered inform us that the colonel executed his orders too faithfully among them. He obliged them to bring in exact lists of those articles specified in his instructions, and afterwards took at them at his own price for them - a copy of which is as follows. For hay when brot by the inhabitants £4-0-0 a ton - when

carried by the Hessians £3-0-0 for wheat 6/ ℔ bushel
5/6 - for beef 3ᵈ - div/2 ℔ pound - pork - the
same - oats - & corn 3/ - & 2/6 ℔ bushel
according as they were brot in, or sent for
by the enemy. — They never contracted
~~find anything~~ for wood or candles - but seized them
wherever they found them. —

As to the salt provisions & flour
they did not leave in scarcely any
one family a quantity sufficient
to it.

They gave receipts only for those
articles which they affected to buy, but
I have not yet seen a man who
ever received a shilling from one
of them. —

The Quakers are loud in their

complaints against them. an old Presbyterian Tropicks who had been plundered by them said after they left him "well God made base men - but I am sure the devil governs them". Another says he will send his three Sons into the army to avenge the insults they have offered to his country. —

The enemy have retreated precipitantly to Brunswick. We expect to follow them. our troops are still in high spirits.

There is one thing which I wish our Commanders would learn from Gen'l Howe's letter & that is Economy. They confine their care principally to military abuses, and too much neglect to inspect the quarter master - commissary &

No 87 Dr Rush Jan 6. 1776

medical departments. This is inter nos.

No 381

An officer who served under Prince Ferdinand in the late war told me that he once saw him stop by the side of a broken waggon, and wait there till a man came to mend it. A General should be great in minute things. we waste as much money every month as would support three thousand men - I repeat it again - this is inter nos. - The short enlistments I grant have had a great share in producing this profusion of our money. I shall tell you in what manner hereafter - Don't forget to urge Congress to resume the power of appointing all military Officers

1st. Justice plainly directs that such construction [illegible] contracts as was evidently understood by, and meant [illegible] the common understanding of both the Contracting parties at [illegible] time the Contract was made.

2dly. In all future time, the existing law of the Country when a Contract is made, must be the law under which such contract will be determined in a Court of justice; and not by a Law made subsequent to the contract, which would be ex post facto, and inconsistent with the inviolable and reasonable adjudication of Courts.

With respect to the first, both the Contracting parties, both Land-Lord and Tenant, knew that in this Country there was no money but Gold & Silver that was legal tender, and altho paper money was received, yet it was altogether a matter of choice, and only taken because the exchange was not higher than gold & Silver would warrant. Both Parties must therefore have had in contemplation, either Gold & Silver, or as much paper money as would be equal thereto.

With regard to the second position - As by the Law of the Land, at the time these contracts were made, paper money was expressly declared no Tender in all Actions determined on these Contracts being governed by such Law, paper money will be either rejected by the Court, or such a quantity of it adjudged as will be a compensation to the Creditor, for the kind of money he was by Law intitled to, when the Contract was made.

Nor will this be injurious to the Tenant, because Commodities, Labor and every thing vendible, rises as the Exchange does; and so, when by the greatness of the quantity of paper money in circulation, exchange rises so high as to make a Silver dollar (as it was once in New England) worth five pound paper; the Planter for his bushel of wheat would get a silver dollar, or in lieu thereof five pounds of paper money. But if I was obliged to receive paper in discharge of my Rents - A Tenant, who ought in justice to pay me five pounds of such money as was only lawful when we made our bargain, might come and pay me with the produce of one

[illegible]

us

[redacted] (Executive) to the destruction of Justice,
[redacted] to the injury & violation of our [redacted] Contract
prevent therefore multiplicity of Lawsuits, which will be
exceedingly disagreeable to me, and very hurtful to the Tenants
I propose a short agreement to be entered into by both parties, that on
time to come, the rent to be paid in Sterling money, deducting 25 p.
Cent from the Current money to make it Sterling. This being
the settled natural exchange of the Country when Gold & Silver
is the Currency — And so I am willing it shall always be with
[redacted] money Rents, either the Sterling or as much paper money as will
purchase the Sterling — And to [redacted] the payment more easy
for the Tenants, I am willing it be entered in this agreement
that for the future the Rents shall not be payable until
the 1st. day of April next after every first day of October
in every year when they are now due, whereby the
Tenants will gain six months of time to look out for a
market for their produce.

Richard Henry Lee

For Richard Henry Lee
Canterbury Virginia
Lee Agreement
with the Tenants
settled in Sterling
Same plan as 6th
Tenants Rents Pd
in Sterling 10th Jan. 76
14th Feb. 76 and Dec. 76
Agreement
Agreeing on distinction
Laws of Country
of many Years Standing
for much Tobacco
by way of Rent
Mr Lee's Agreement
for Sterling
Proportion

Messrs. Hunter, Irwin & Frese

Philad.a Jan.y 18th 1776

We wrote you the 28 of Apr.l last, & inclosed yours receipt & Bill of the adventure of 1500 l; at the same time ordered Capt.n Jas. Johnston of our Ship Dickinson to remit you the Ballance of £74 11 4 Sterl.g which by his accot we find he did do from Bristol; since which, we have not had the pleasure of a line from you.

This serves to hand you Invoice & Bills of Lading of a valuable Cargoe of Flour, Spermaceti Candles & Beeswax, Shipp'd on board our Ship Dickinson, to your address, wch we wish safe to your hands. We would have this Cargoe immediately Sold, and the Nett Proceeds laid out in Fifteen Tons of good Gunpowder; or if Gunpowder is not to be had, as much Saltpetre, with a portion of fifteen Pounds of Sulphur to each hundred Wt of Saltpetre, so will be sufficient to make that quantity of Gunpowder, and one thousand five hundred Stand of Arms fitted with Bayonets, and Steel hamrods and one thousand bolts of Russia Duck, or Canvass, and as much more of these articles as the Nett Proceeds of this Cargoe will purchase. If any of the aforesaid articles cannot be got as aforesd the money Directed to be paid out of that article we would have laid out in good Tichinburgs, or Osnaburgs, or Dibleys or failing of the returns to be made in Gold or Silver. This Cargoe we have Shipp'd you for Accot of the Continental Congress of the Thirteen United Colonies of America, and the orders of the returns is what they have directed & We make no doubt you will use your best endeavours to Compleat it in every article. The ready and Chearful assistance afforded us by many of your Merchants both from the West Indies & Europe demands our grateful acknowlegment, and encourages our applying to you for still

farther

farther supplies, to enable us to oppose the arbitrary & tyrannical proceedings of the Court of great Britain, against us. Should it be in your power to compleat the whole of our order, we must request you will be very particular in sending the best of each article, that is to be had; & that you will give the orders all possible dispatch, so as to be on our Coast as early as possible in the Spring. Our former experience of your punctuality, and despatch of business has induced us to recommend this consignment to your house, and we have liberty to inform you Should this voyage succeed to our Wishes we shall have it in our power to visit you with more important consignments. We request you would conduct this business with as much secrecy as possible, as we have been informed the Court of great Britain have spies in most of your principal Sea port Towns, whose business it is to find out American vessels and learn their Cargoes and destination, the time of their sailing &c which they transmit to England in order to have them Waited and taken.

We shall anxiously wait the event of this voyage, & in the mean time remain with the greatest Respect

Ff. Wot Obet. Humble Servts.

Bayard Jackson, & Co.

To

Messrs. Montandouin & Frere

at

Nantz. —

(91)

Dear Sir Williamsburg Feb.y 2d 1776

I received yours. of the 22d. yesterday by some unknown Hand who instantly disappd. If I could have received it a few Hours sooner I would have prevailed on the Printers to publish the Pieces you mention. I entirely agree with you in Opinion that it is necessary to publish whatever may tend to shew the Propriety & Necessity of the present Opposition - & I think this in no Publication better done than in a Pamphlet I received directed to you. The Cover was quite worn off & it came to Hand so late that I could not send it by the Post nor have I sent a safe Hand to convey it to you - I read it & knowing that you would wish to propogate the Doctrines it contained, desired Pinkney who happened to be with me when I read it, to make some Extracts from it. Purdie has taken some valuable Parts in his last Paper. I would wish to procure some Copies from Philad.a & distribute amongst those who

are such perfect Idolaters, or worshippers
of Kings amongst us, & those Lovers of the
Connection with Britain – I am called
to the Committee & have several Letters to
write as a Member & have been obliged to
write to Philad.a or I should take great
Pleasure in saying much to you on the Subject
of Independency, & the State of our Affairs –
I have been always of your Opinion with Respect
to our present Commander in Chief. All Orders
do pass thro' him – & we really wish to be
in perfect Harmony with him. You will
excuse any Scrawl. I am Dear Sir most

affectionately yours

John Page

Gen. Page

(No 326.)

Feb. 9. 1778
hon. John Page Esq.

No 326

1778

To
Gen. Horatio Gates

If the
I have
to our
do pass
in respect
excuse

Ca. 5 Lin (No 92)

Berkeley Feb 4th 76

My Dear Friend,

Yesterday I recd the pleasure of your favour dated October 23d - Notwithstanding it was so long after date I recd perfect satisfaction, as there was room to believe that you had forgot me - had it been the case I would have kept importuning you incessantly; as a testimony of my never forgiving your friendly Views.

The two Companies ordered to be raised in Berkeley are raised, armed, & ready to march - If they are so active throughout the Colony the Levies will soon be compleated.

I think the Congress should apply for foreign Assistance, as the Bloody Violence of K - g & Ministry & the Apathy of the people of Britain, seem to me unaccountable. Every Sinews must be Exerted! nothing but plentiful bleeding by Successful opposition, will bring them to their Senses. Indeed my Affection is not only cooled, but I begin to be inveterate, & it is impossible that I can ever again have any Attachment to the Mother Country -

I had an Opportunity to write you last week - I mentioned that this time 22 years I was first Captain in the Virg[a] troops, by the death of Col Fry, & resignation of Wood, I was made Lieut Col after the Battle of the Meadows July 8. 1754. In the year 58 upon my Return from Carolina, I was detached to the frontiers of Penny[a] with 600 men, & commanded all them Officers, when I found them troops, & indeed there was not one field officer of them at that time, that could make a proper Return, or a Report of the ground - They were but newly raised - The Virginia Lieutenants seeing that Officers of Virginia Commanding would give great encouragement to their Sailors, & traders willing to serve, prevailed on Gov[r] Denny to appoint three Colo, & antedated their Commissions - Of this I informed Gover Fauquier, & desired that I & the rest of the old Virg[a] Officers should be

Advanced

in the same Manner & on the same Acct. But the poor Mohock man was afraid to do a good Action, least it should have been bad — The Consequence was, that the Binnaghamons lies about £200.000 in that Campaign — for dry goods, Liquors, Packhorses & Carriage —

Col. Hugh Mercer, served but 58. 9. & 6d — I have stood Eleven Campaigns, & have nothing to reproach my self with — Heaven was pleas'd to bless me with Success — Were I not of Abilities, & Experience equal to any, [redacted] Who succeeds to the Command of our troops, I would not mention this to you, Whom I look upon as Concerned in my Conduct] —— I expect the pleasure of seeing You in Philadelphia in a Short time, & have the honour to be,

Sir, Your most Ob.t hu.e Serv.t

Berkeley Story A.r 17th 1776 Adam Stephen

P. S. Lord Fairfax has been very ill of a fit of the gout, but is well Recover'd. Col. Martin Sends his Compliments.

N. S.

I would want no men from Town, but a good Staff what Gov.t & manufactures we wanted of them, for a certain term of Years & that they should furnish a Navy Convoy to protect our Exports, & convey them to the best Markets in Europe &c

No 396

S. Stephen

The Honble
Richard Lee Esqr
Virginia
Philadelphia

1776

(No 396.)

(1792)

London 10th Feb.y 1776.—

(№ 24)

The inclosed will easily explain itself, the intelligence you should Observe, & take Measures Accordingly; a Fund for the necessary Expences should be fixed here, in such Hands, as can be confided in. You know who is to be trusted; From Experience I can say, / tho without any Connexion, or commerce with them / the New Englands Men are fittest to be trusted in any dangerous or important Interprize. Show this only to R. Hs. L. of Virginia & he will Guess from whence it comes.

: The Intelligence if it gets to Hands in Time, should be communicated as soon as Possible, to every part of America, that she may be prepared.—

(Copy)

Doctor Benjamin Franklin
Philadelphia.—

A. Lee
(No 24) to
Benj.a Franklin
(13.th Feb.y 1776.)

Copies a letter from
A. Lee to B. Franklin.

To
Doctr Benj.a Franklin

41

(No 93) Gov. & Com.

Dear Sir Wms burg Feb.y 19th 1776 [Tue 20th

I am extremely obliged to you for your kind concern for my Health - If you were alarmed at the Report of the Arrival of the Roebuck, you have much more Reason to be so now when you are told of the Arrival of another Ship of War with 2 Transports - Col. Henry had certain Information of this Yesterday - they arrived in Hampton Road on Saturday, & we are still ignorant who they are or what Force they bring - & what is worse Sir, we have not a Force sufficient to oppose them if they have not brought a single Soldier - for the 5 Men of War now here are able to land 6 or 700 Sailors & Marines - exclusive of the Tories & Negros Ld Dunmore can furnish - & we have not 300 Men at Hampton - not 100 at York, nor 300 in this City - & the Country People & Militia are not only without Arms, but are lulled into a Stupid Security by the Tales which flatter them with Peace.

I moved on the arrival of the Roebuck that the Neighbouring Militias should be ordered to hold themselves in Readiness

to march at an Hours Notice — that such Companies of Regulars as were compleated should be ordered to this Place, & that all of them should repair with the utmost Expedition to their Rendezvous.

but the Committee thought these Things quite unnecessary, & only gave a Common Order appointing Places of Rendezvous, & alloting Regiments & Officers, which indeed ought to have been done long ago — [I moved to with the like Success, that the Sum of 40 Pounds should be paid to — Bucktrout for his Ingenuity in constructing & to destroy the Expence of erecting & to enable him to prosecute his Plan of working up the Salt petre which may be collected in the neighbouring Counties, with his Hand — Powder Mill now at Work in this City — The President, altho' I told the Committee I would engage to make 100 ℔ of Powder p.r Day with it & endeavoured to shew the Necessity of encouraging such a Work, declared that in his Opinion it was a Bauble — & 5 Members were of Opinion that it was not worth the Reward I proposed. I was ashamed for the Committee & very much hurt to find that my Recommendation of a Machine which I understood perfectly & had

seen Tried, & of a Man whose Ingenuity I had before produced Proofs by shewing Powder of his Making & proving its Excellence by actual Experiments, * - This Mill (* reading the least weight of the Com.) Sir alone well attended might supply a great Part of our Country with Powder. I shall do all I can to encourage the Man to go on with his Work. I think private Subscription 'til the Convention meets may enable him to be very serviceable - The Com: indeed on finding that many a Powder Mill People in Town entertain an high Opinion of this Mill, begin to appear willing to give some kind of encouragement to it - I have scribbled with great haste in a crowd so I hope you will excuse my Scrawl I think it absolutely necessary to follow your Advice respecting our Phila.a Fleet - I am much pleased with your sending the Express - I am called to the Committee where they are to consider a Letter from Ld. D - I will let you know by next Opportunity the Result of our Deliberation. I am &c. John Pa

(No 93)

> Copy 1st Letter

(No 327.)

No 327

Letter Page

Dear Sir Wmsburg Feb.y 7.th 1776

I have just received yours of the 6.th Inst.
& have snatched a Moment to write a few lines
in answer to it — I approve much of your Plan
of publishing the Hand-Bill — & would before
this have executed it, if my Indisposition &
Mrs Page's Illness added to an incessant Round
of Business had not prevented me.

The Method you mention for Removing the
Spikes from Cannon is certainly good. but
it is said the Cannon at Norfolk are rendered
Useless by being broken at their Trunnions
& Butts. I will endeavour Sir to procure
on our Committee to send you regularly
authentic Accounts of every material
Occurrence here, & of the State of the Enemies
Strength. I wrote you yesterday an Account
of the Arrival of another Man of War & a
Transport or 2, this Report has not been
contradicted, nor have we yet heard from
Whence or what these Ships are — Capt.n
Hammond of the Roebuck, we are well
assured has behaved with great Politeness
& Humanity to several of our People —
L.d Dunmore had written a Letter to Col.
Corbin, in which he offers to go to England

to negociate Peace - he professes the warmest Attachment to this Country - & says that he lays hold on the last Sentence in the Kings Speech to offer his Services to procure a lasting speedy & honourable Accommodation - No one but L^d D - could have objected that Sentence in the Manner he has - I will send you a Copy of the Letter by the Post - Col. Corbin laid the Letter before the Co. of Safety, & received a Letter from the Com: which I will also send you - In it was told the Col. that we were neither empowered or inclined to intermeddle with the Mode of Negociation that we looked to the Congress for the Management of this important Matter - but that we would lay his Letter before the Assembly which is to meet on the 1st Decr that L^d D - might manifest his good Intentions by suspending Hostilities - Col. Corbin set out this Morning to Hampton with Orders to Col. Grayson to send him with a Flag of to L^d D - we gave him to understand that His Lo^p should deliver up the Slaves now with him immediately - The old Gent^n went off in great Hopes of procuring a Month's Truce at least, & seemed determined to give Captn Hammond a true State of Transactions - Since writing my Letter of Yesterday - the Com: have ordered down the Sailor Boy, which had been sent to Petersburg, to be wor-

up by Buckstrout. I hope from this that they will at length encourage him & enable him to carry on the manufacturing of Gun-Powder to a considerable extent. 181

The Report of the Burning of Portsmouth was intirely without foundation — I am dear Sir

Yr. affectionate Hble Servt

John Page

P. S. I think you had better attend the Assembly. you will [illegible] wanted here than at the Ca[illegible]

182

Jno Dove
Augt 18th 1787

Chantilly

To Richd Henry Lee Esqr

Dear Sir (№ 94)

March 7th 1776

I very unluckely missed you about half an hour at Washingtons Mill; the badness of the Roads and the great difficulty I had with the Tenants delayed me much longer than I expected, however I am in hopes no inconvenency will arise from my not seeing you, as I found it absolutely impossible to purchase any Tobacco at 18/. The expectations of the people were greatly raised from the price the Agent for the County is giving for Tob.o intended to purchase Amunition, and all hold their Crops at 12/6 20/. besides upon enquiring the price of waggoning from the Court house would amount to near if not quite £10 per Hhd.

I called on my way up at Colo. Lee's and informed him of the price I was limitted to in vetting the future rents of the Tenants he advised me to allow 2d. rather than not settle with them, and I found it so totally impossible to bring them down to 15/ that I thought it would be for your Interest to agree to give 2d. rather than let the rents remain as they were, as I knew your great anxiety to have them vetted in Tob.o and you may depend there was very great difficulty to get it even at that price. Majr. Picket and Mr. Blackwell gave me every assistance in their power, but no arguments would prevail with three of the Tenants Jones, Bradford & Spicer to come into it, for as they believe that all Differences will be settled with Britain this Spring they hope to get from 20/ to 30/ as soon as that event happens. However I have left Agreements filled up for them to sign if they change their minds shortly, but not otherwise. There are also three of the town Tenants who would not abide for Tobacco, but have engaged to pay Gold and Silver at its present value, that is 25 ℔c. difference from Sterling.

I visited your Tenants at the blue Ridge, abt. 25 Miles they live from the Courthouse, but they, John Webb and one Kelley at their head, would not strike at any thing under 20/. They offer Wheat delivered at Navigation at 2/6; but that I did not choose to settle at. If you should approve of it they will settle in that manner. I delivered your Letter to Mr. Meith, but as he expects to be in the Army, he could not determine whether he could undertake the Collection, till he knows how the other matter would be settled. He had not the Rentals nor could get it until majr. Marshall came up. I could get not a farthing from those Tenants. Mr. Blackwell paid me £56 which was all he could receive & I have taken a list from him of the Ballce due as well from the Tenants as the Arrears of the Negroes which I send inclosed, this list was taken from his book as I went up and he recieved part of the above sum afterwards so that the ballances are dispersed a few pounds.

As I could get no horses from the Tenants and knew Mr. Lees Situation, I purchased two very fine Sorrels, pretty well matched, with blazes in their faces, the one 15 & the other upwards of 15 hands high, strong, very gentle tho spirited, each seven years old, for £20 each. I drove each of them down and can assure they are good. All who know the horses above think they are cheap. And know that John Chunn of whom I bought them was offered £50 for them not long since; but it was not ready money, and he wanted the Sum I gave to redeem a Negro he had pledged. He struck with me. I am in hopes when you see them you will not disapprove of my bargain.

Mr. Kelly, and upon a conversation with him abt. his rent he was inclined to give £10 Sterling, but requested I would give him time to consult Robinson. He wrote to him, but had no answer when I left the Courthouse, but he desired I would call on Robinson as I went through Falmouth, which I did, He had

no

design or inclination to settle it for two reasons; the one that the Lot would not rent for so much, and the other that he had got Mr. Wallers Opinion that you was compellable to take £6,— and execute a lease with 3 lives now in being. He showed me Wallers Opinion on the state sent — The Opinion was good but the Case false stated. Some Facts concealed & others false which I collected from Likely as well as himself; in the Conversation with Likely he confessed he knew from report at least that two of the lives were expired & the other near at an end, when he proposed a new lease to you, and that he believed you were ignorant of it, that he looked upon it he was not bound to inform you of it as it behoved you to be upon your guard when you made a bargain, he was to make the best bargain he could and it was your own fault that you did not make a proper Enquiry. The same reasoning I had from Robinson, and I answered them both, that this for ought I knew might be a Rule laid down among Merchants, but I was sure would not hold good amongst honest Men. However, I could do nothing with him. He confessed he believed Black was dead and that he died at Sea, & pleased himself ~~that you~~ with the reflection that you could not prove his death. I assured him you had it in your power to prove it sufficiently for your purpose & that he might rely you would take possession of your Tenement very shortly: on this I left him. We have no News since you left us. I shall write again very shortly & shall hope to hear from you when ever you have leisure to write. I shall with pleasure execute any Commands you may think proper to lay on me. Wishing you health & every happiness I am

Dear Sir

Your affect Friend &c

Richd Parker

March 9th 1776

(1094)

Col Richard Parker
March 17th 1776.

(The Rent Business)

(No 350)

[Copy Entire]

(Not copied by T.L.P.)

No 350

1776
Richard Parker
Letter

(No 941)

1773 Joseph Jeffories Dr.
Rent
1774 Rent £ 9-10-3
1775 Do 13-10-6
10-12-6

1773 John Peake Dr.
Rent
1775 Do £ 4 .....
Use of Picket 30-5-2

1773 Joseph Hudnall Dr.
Rent £ 4-14-4
1774 Do 4-14-4
1775 Do 4-14-4

1774 Charles Bell Dr.
Rent £ 22-8-1
1775 Do 22-8-1

1774 Peter Grant Dr.
Grant £ 12-13-3

1775 Frederick Burdett Dr
Rent 2-17-6

1774 Peter Kemper Dr
Rent £ 2-7-4
1775 Do 2-7-4

1774 Joseph Neale Use of Wm Richfrays ect. Dr.
Rent £ 7-11-4
1775 Do 7-11-4

1774 Joseph Bragg Dr.
Rent Ball: £ 6-19-4
1775 Do 9-1-4

1774 Reginald Graham Dr.
Rent Ball: £ 3-2-2
1775 Do 13-2-2

1774 William Hixson Dr.
Rent Ball: 1-18-5
1775 Do 0-16-3

1774 Joseph Williams Dr
Rent Ball: £ 2-1-6
1775 Do 2-10-

1775 Isaac Arnold Dr.
Rent £ 6-9-6

1775 Joseph Nelson Dr.
Rent from Headley £ 3-12-6

1775 William Jones Dr.
Rent £ 7-6-9

1775 James Scott Dr
Rent of Grant £ 12-13-3

1774 Judith Price Dr.
Rent £ 11-19-1

1774 George Gruendler Dr.
Rent £ 2-11-3

1774 Alex.r Bradford Dr.
2 S. Rent £ 11-6-2

1775 Edmund Bassye Dr.
Rent £ 5-2-6

1774 John Tiernan Dr.
Rent £ 2-10-

1774 John Liberty Dr.
Rent £ 40-
Randall's Heirs Rent 4-16

1773 James Harris Dr.
Hire Negroes Ball: Bond £ 19-
1774 Do 5-

1773 Samuel Moore Dr.
Hire Negroes £ 12-

1773 John Newman Dr.
Hire of Negroes £ 10-

1773 John Allen Dr.
Rent for Horse £ 2-15-

1774 Edward Talley Dr.
Hire negro £ 7-10-

1774 John McGuire Dr.
Hire Negroes £ 12-

1774 Randall's Heirs Dr.
Hire Negroes £ 17-

1774 Enoch Ashby Dr.
Hire Negroes £ 12-12

1773 Thomas Smith Goose Creek Dr.
Hire Negroes £ 6-
1774 Do 6-

1774 John Weathers Dr.
Hire Negroes £ 3-10-

1774 Wm Miller Dr.
Hire Negroes £ 7-4

1774	Peter Kempes		
1-01 11 X	Heir Negroe	£7.10	
1774	Beby Johnston		
8 11 8 X	Heir Girl	2	
1775	D°	3	
1774	John Barker		
2 3 11 X	Heir boll:	£2 2	
1775	D°	6	
1774	Joseph Bragg		
	Heir Negroes	£4 10	
1774	Nicholas Browning		
	Heir Negroe	£5	
1774	John Stewart		
	Heir Negroes	£5	
1775	D°	4	
1775	Josiah Fishbach	D°	
	Heir Negroes	£7 10	
	Stoney Mauzy	D°	
	Heir Negroes	£4	
1775	Charles Marten	D°	
	Heir Negroes 2	£12	
1775	James Wilson	D°	
	Heir Negroes	£14	
1775	John Smith	D°	
	Heir Negroes	£4	
1775	Thomas Smith Deceased	D°	
	Heir Negroes	£8	
1775	James Gray	D°	
	Heir Negroe	£2	
1775	Ambrose Barnett	D°	
	Heir Negroes	£4	
1775	Joseph Hawkins	D°	
	Balt: Negroe hire	£8 7 7	
	Instruct for several Years Sd		

Baltimore March ye 21st 1776

Sir,

[illegible] the necessary Duties of the Gentlemen of this place I have employ'd these Days past in executing the works thrown up for the defence of the Town against Shipping. I had (according to the best judgment I am able to form) in general well conceived and believe they are completed that the Town within the Military plans be hereafter digested, as I was assured at Philadelphia by the Delegates of Virginia and Carolina that there was not a single field Engineer in their Provinces I have ventured to engage a Mr Rapen back a Young German; who from the conversation I have had with him, seems to be a sufficient Master of the business. I hope the Congress will approve of the step. I must now, Sir, beg leave to express my concern that my conduct in addressing a work to the disaffected in Long Island should have brought down such a stigma upon my head. I myself saw and confess'd the irregularity of the proceeding. there is likewise no man more sensible than my self of the necessity of bridling in times the impetuosity and licence of the Military. but as I had received orders from the Congress to take every step for the security of N. York, as I had reason to expect the Enemy every hour, as I thought the least delay might be of the most dangerous consequences, and above all as I was conscious of neither being actuated by spleen, passion, caprice, nor prejudice, but merely and purely by zeal for the public safety, I presum'd all considerations, and hazarded so irregular a measure. I confess that I expected a reprimand, and but flatter'd myself that it might have been [illegible] to me in a less severe manner than by a public re-

as I consider the Congress as the most respectable Sovereign in the World
& bad it in my opinion it is the only legitimate one, & their public conduct
wishs deep in my spirits, and I seriously wish that a Natural Parent
of temper and (if I may so express it) a moderate zeal for
the rights and safety of this Country may prove long and a
second time into any measure which may so justly merit repro-
hension—

I am, Sir, your most respectful

Your most Obed.t and humble Servt

Charles Lee

To The Hon.ble John Hancock Esq.r

To

The Honble John Hancock Esqr

President of the Continental Congress

Philadelphia

Genl Lee's letter of April 5th

(1496)

Pearsi

Virginia Eper County April 2d, 1776

Having occasion to send the Bearer, Mr Reuben Garnett, to Philadelphia, I cannot do less than to desire him to wait on you for any Commands you may have to your Lady or Friends here, assuring you that such as you may Commit to my care by him shall be immediately forwarded as you may direct. I heard from the Revd Mr Smith a few Days ago, and have no reason to think that your Lady, Family, or Friends in Westmoreland, are otherwise than well. Your Time, I know must be precious, but if you should have any thing new & interesting, not unfit for the Public Ear, your imparting it to me, if but in one Line will not only give me exceeding pleasure, but lay me under obligation.

Independence is now the Topic here, and I think I am not very mistaken when I say, it will (if not already) be very soon a Favourite Child — What may be the opinion of the Congress, or America in general, I presume not to determine — but I think there must in a little Time be an alteration in our Political System. — You have my best Wishes for your Health & Happiness & I am, with real regard, Pearsi,

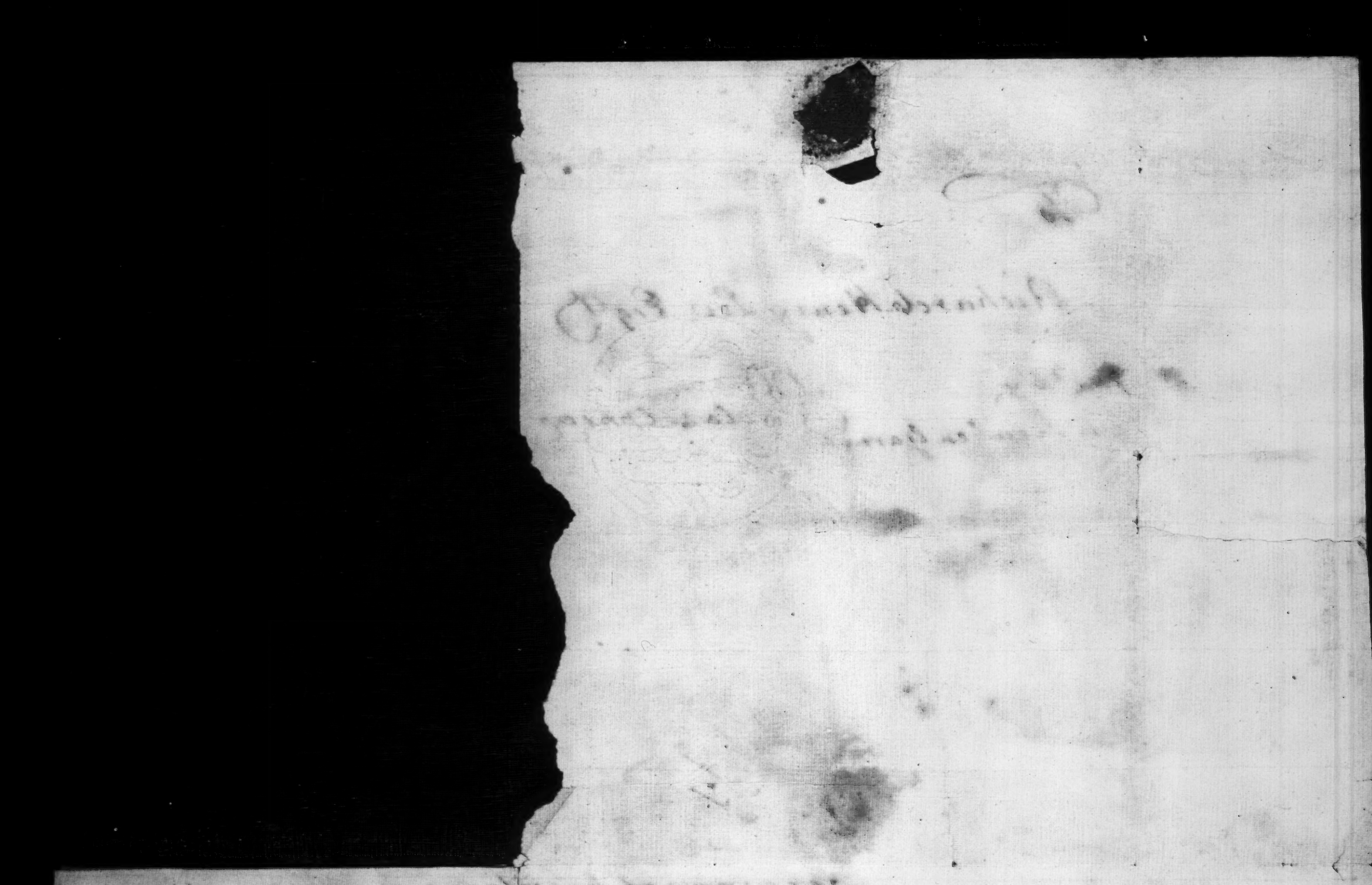
your very affecd & obed Servt

John Lee

Any Commands from Col. Lee (to whom they may be carefully forwarded) thankfully received.

John Lee
April 2d 76

(No 2.)



To

Richard Henry Lee, Esq

Philadelphia

favd by
Mr Reuben Garrett

No 2.

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA LIBRARY MICROFILM / PUBLICATIONS

The following copy of the Instructions of Congress to the Commanders of Ships of War was issued to Peter Armiel, commander of the privateer *Alliance*., on 23 June 1778, by the American Commissioners in France.

In Congress (2)

Wednesday April 3 1776

Instructions to the Commanders of private Ships or Vessels of War which shall have Commissions or Letters of Marque, and Reprisal, authorizing them to make Captures of British Vessels and Cargoes

1

You may by force of Arms, attack, subdue and take all Ships and other Vessels belonging to the Inhabitants of Great Britain, on the high Seas, or between high-water and low-water marks; except Ships and Vessels bringing Persons who intend to settle and reside in the united Colonies, or bringing Arms, Ammunition or Warlike Stores to the said Colonies, for the use of such Inhabitants thereof as are friends to the American Cause, which you shall suffer to pass

unmolested, the Commanders thereof permitting a peaceable Search, and giving Satisfactory Information of the Contents of the Ladings and destinations of the Voyages.

2

You may, by force of Arms, attack, Subdue and take all Ships and other Vessels whatsoever carrying Soldiers, Arms, Gun-Powder, Ammunition, Provisions or any other Contraband Goods, to any of the British Armies or Ships of War employed against these Colonies.

3

You Shall bring Such Ships and Vessels as you Shall take, with their Guns, Rigging, Tackle, Apparel, Furniture and Ladings, to some convenient Port or Ports of the united Colonies, that proceedings may thereupon be had in due form, before the Courts which are, or Shall be there appointed, to hear and determine Causes civil and maritime

4

You or one of your chief Officers shall bring or send the Master and Pilot and one or more Principal Person or Persons of the Company of every Ship or Vessel by you taken, as soon after the Capture as may be, to the Judge or Judges of such Court as aforesaid, to be examined upon Oath, and make Answer to the Interrogatories which may be propounded touching the Interest or Property of the Ship or Vessel and her Lading; and at the same time you shall deliver or cause to be delivered to the Judge or Judges, all Passes, Sea-Briefs, Charter-Parties, Bills of Lading, Cockets, Letters and other Documents and Writings found on board, proving the said Papers by the Affidavit of yourself, or of some other Person present at the Capture, to be produced as they were received, without Fraud, Addition, Subduction or Embezzlement

5

You shall keep and preserve every Ship or Vessel and Cargo by you taken, until they shall by Sentence of a Court properly authorized, be adjudged lawful Prize, not selling, Spoiling, Wasting, or

diminishing the same, or breaking the Bulk thereof, nor suffering any such thing to be done.

6

If you or any of your Officers or Crew, shall, in cold Blood kill or maim, or by torture or otherwise, cruelly, inhumanly and contrary to common usage and the Practice of civilized Nations in war, treat any Person or Persons surprized in the Ship or Vessel you shall take, the Offender shall be severely punished.

7

You shall, by all convenient Opportunities, send to Congress written Accounts of the Captures you shall make with the number and names of the Captives, — Copies of your Journal from time to time, and — Intelligence of what may occur or be discovered concerning the designs of the Enemy and the destinations, motions and Operations of their Fleets and Armies. —

8

One third at least, of your whole Company shall be Land-men.

9

You Shall not ransome any Prisoners or Captives, but Shall dispose of them in Such manner as the Congress, or if that be not Sitting in the Colony wither they Shall be brought, as the general Assembly, Convention or Council or Committee of Safety of Such Colony Shall direct.

10

You Shall observe all Such further Instructions as Congress Shall hereafter give in the Premises, when you Shall have notice thereof.

11

If you Shall do any thing contrary to these Instructions, or to others hereafter to be given, or willingly Suffer Such thing to be done, you Shall not only forfeit your Commission, and be Liable to an Action for breach of the Condition of your Bond, but be responsible to the Party grieved for Damages Sustained by Such Malversation

By order of Congress John Hancock Pres.

(Copy)

Passi near Paris June 23 1778

The foregoing is a true Copy of original Instructions from Congress to Commanders of private Ships or Vessels of War, having Commissions or Letters of Marque and Reprisal, which you are strictly enjoined and required to observe

B Franklin
Arthur Lee
John Adams

To Peter Arriel Commander of
private Ship of War, the Alliance

Instructions to the Commanders of private Ships.

apriel 3?
1776–

Cambridge 4th April 1776 (189)

Dear Sir,

Your favour of the 26th ult. came to my Hands last Night by the Post, but as I am upon the point of setting out for New York (by the way of Providence and Norwich) I can do little more than acknowledge the receipt of it, and thank you for the Proceedings & Ordinances of the Virg. Convention which came safely to hand.—

At present the Lakes are in an Impassable State, neither being clear of Ice, nor cover'd with such as will admit of Transportation; at present also, our Troops are at different Stages on their March from hence to New York, nor is it possible for me, tho I get there, as the Congress have annexed Conditions to my sending the four Battalions to Canada, to tell whether they can be spared or not, as I am unacquainted with the number of Men, or strength of the works at that place — no time shall be lost in forwarding those Batt.ns if there is a possibility of doing it with safety, as no person can be more sensible of the importance of securing Canada than I am. — A Letter of the 27th ult.o from Genl. Schuyler to Congress informs me that there are many Men now stopt at Albany on acct. of the State the Ice is in on the Lakes — I thank you for your

your friendly congratulations on the Retreat of the Kings Troops from Boston — It was really a flight — their Imbarkation was so precipitate — their loading so confused (after making greater havock of the King's Stores than Darby did upon Braddocks defeat, which made so much noise) that it took them Eleven days to fit their Transports — adjust the Loads of them, and take in water from the Islands in Nantasket Road, after they had fallen down there — the Coast is now clear of them except the Rescue (a 50 Gun Ship) & one or two Frigat which remain here for the protection of such Transports as shall be bound to this port. — I pray you to make my best wishes acceptable to the good Doct.r, his Lady & Family, &c.a and believe me to be as I really am

D.r Sir Y.r Affect.e & Obed.t
Hble Serv.t
G. Washington

P.S. We want an Hospital upon a proper Establishment, and a proper Director with good Stores to take care & charge of it — I cannot learn that these are to be provided here, therefore will write to the Congress to consider of this matter. — A Mr. Bass of Philadelphia who has sold wares in this way last War can give you the proper Establishment for one — I would not wish to see an expensive one for our Poor, and I have no doubt of Doct. Shippen's recommending such Gentlemen for Inspectors as he can answer for the Abilities of — Whether there will be News Stores, or whether we live out of the way of receiving it I cannot tell, but so it is that I have heard nothing of what the Parliament or Ministry are about since I left Philadelphia — Farewell as before. Yours &c.

Sept. 11. 1792.

Rich.d Henry Lee Esq.r
of Virginia -
Philadelphia

G. Washington

Lee
G.o Washington

G. Washington 1775

General

Philadelphia

Recd. 2 Dec

[illegible]

G. W. Cambridge

192

Copies of Letters from the Sec.ty Comt. to
John Langdon Esq.r New Hampshire
for April 2d. 1776

(8

Your Letters of the 11th Inst. addressed to the late Josiah Ward Esq.r are now before me & have been read to the Secret Committee by whose order I now answer them.

We are sorry for the loss

Williamsburg 9th April 1776

My Dr Friend

I congratulate the Public and you, one of her best Members, on the late glorious event, the flight of the Tyrants Cut-throats from Boston — altho I do not know whether it is a matter of congratulation, for it appears to me that as our affairs grow more prosperous, the Manly Passions of the Sena-torial part of the Continent (great and small) grow more timid and hysterical. I am sorry to say it, but your Com-mittee of Safety seem to be as desperately and incurably infected with this epidemical malady as the Provincial Congress of Maryland or the grandam Assembly of Pennsylvania Your Brother, Mr Page, Payne and I believe Nicholas are indeed exceptions (but from Pendleton Bland, the Treasurer & the new Mayor of Williamsburg) & libera nos Domine — Pendleton is certainly reputed a Man of sense, but I can assure you that the other night in a conversation I had with him on the subject of Inde-pendence He talked or rather stammered nonsense that would have disgraced the Lips of an old Nurse drunk with bohea Tea and gin — Bland says that the Author of common sense is a blockhead and ignorant, for that He has grossly mistaken the nature of the Jewish Theocracy — If you could be spared from the Congress, get

presence might infuse vigor and wisdom — there a coman
is of a piece with their wisdom and valor; to save money
We have no carriages to our guns, to save money We have
no blankets for our men who are from want of them dyeing
dying by dozens at Suffolk — had I gun Carriages, I could
flatter myself with almost a certainty of driving the
Pyrates and shutting them out for ever from the harbour of
Norfolk — I have however order'd them to be made with
all possible expedition — and then shall attempt this capital
stroke — my command from the circumstances of the Country
being intersected by navigable waters, and the Enemy being
deny'd with carriages to fly to any spot they chuse is
disagreeable — I may make a very shabby figure without
any real merits of my own — I know not where to turn
or where to fix myself — I may as Richard the third says
be in the West when I should serve my Sovereign in the
North — I can only act from the best view, and I may
miss doing — but I must venture and take my measures
accordingly — I am apt to think that Williamsburg
and York will be their object — the possession of the first
is not only most temptingly advantageous from its com-
mand of the two rivers and a most abundant Country
but it's being a Capital with the possession would

give an air of dignity and decided superiority to them
arms which in a Slave Country is of the utmost im- 197
-portance — your dominion over the Blacks is found-
on opinion — if this opinion fails your authority is
lost — on this principle I am drawing down some of
the Battalions and shall when I can procure enhancing
work for the security of these places — for Gods sake
why do you daily in the Congress so strangely. Why do
you not at once declare yourselves a seperate inde-
-pendant State? — I am much oblig'd to you for keeping
your my letter in your hands — and am happy that
the stigma was not levell'd at me — apropos with
you now as my Command is seperate and scarcely any
letters are addressed to me —
check those not wrote by the Members of the Congress,
which do not
relate to Public business — should be frank'd. Whilst I con-
-tinue in this seperate command I shall be frank'd
for the expence is very considerable — I rest your most
humble Servt Doctor Rush for not writing — I expect and insist
upon it — a Colonels Grayson, whom I suppose you
are acquainted with will be soon with the Congress
to make application for some Military establishment
I am desired to recommend him as a Man of talents

198
Nesit - We must have a continental Hospital
in the Southern department, Dr McClurg is I
am told very indefatigable to be at the head of it -
My little Jemmy Carmichael is as fine Man Captain
Jay a fine Man - but I fear I have what pay
and rank you intend him - I have hitherto sup-
ported him myself - but shall send in a bill for
his reimbursement - adieu My Dr Secretary, and
ut respublica nihil detrimenti capiat -

Yours and your Brothers
most affectionately -

Fr Lee

Genl Charles Lee
5th April 1776

Dear Sir

Caroline Apl. 8. 1776.

On Fryday last Genl. Lee arrived safe in Williamsburg in a very rainy day & much fatigued — We considered him as a Valuable Acquisition and esteem it a fav.r in Congress to spare him to this department where most people here think the Gentry who found Boston too hot for them, will come to be joined by the much talked of Powerful force from Europe. However I am not of that Opinion & think they either mean a descent upon some other part of New England they like better, or perhaps by dividing Our Army, may purpose to return to Boston w.th greater advantage, Or Else to go to Halifax & wait for the Season to go up to Quebec. Genl. Lee thinks if they come here, they will certainly make Wms.burg their Object and on that Supposition is going to intrench it. I hear since I came away he has Ordered all the Batallions from their Stations to that place, which has made the people in Town very happy, but I fear will be very Alarming to Other parts, particularly the Northern Neck, who were before uneasy on the Appearance of Tenders in Potomack & Rapp.a. It was mentioned in Comm.ee before I came away, it would be proper to request our Delegates to transmit all Public Proceedings of Congress to be laid before Convention at their meeting; they will probably have wrote on the Subject, but I mention it least they should from hurry Overlook it. I have seen Your Resolves about reprisals, how it considered as a law we are now to Execute by granting Commissions? Or must we wait for a confirmation by Our Convention? Elections are coming On, It seems Col.o Fran.s Wm.r Carter are left out, by the bulk of the Freeholders being absent, not expecting a contest — I am

D.r Sir Your mo. Obed.t Hble Serv.t

Edm.d Pendleton

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Cont. Pendleton
Apl 8. 1776.

3 P.

Richard Henry Lee Esq.
at
Philadelphia

Post

Do

Williamsburg April ye 12th 1776

My Dr Breed.

I am much pleased with the appointment of the Congress of the two Companies and not less so with the Models establishment, but at the same time am a good deal distressed by an omission of the Provincial Congress of Virginia in not having mentioned a Company of Artillery which they had already raised, and at the head of which a Capt Travis was placed; you perhaps know him, He was formerly usher of the Grammar school here, is a Man of extraordinary virtue good sense and knowledge in the thought of discharging such a Man is extremely disagreeable I hope some means may be devised of providing for him in a manner adequate to his merit. if a Commissary of ordnance is to be an established Office it would suit him I suppose there is understood to be likewise a Commissary of Musters I would be glad leave to recommend

a Mr Archer who has a most unexceptionable character and lost his all - his household Goods and Slaves in the destruction of Norfolk - these Sufferers have certainly a right to qualify'd for the discharge of their duty, the first and most solid claim to the favour of the Congress - as I can have no Jobbs in view, as I have no predilections or connexions, I shall make no scruple of appointing to act, and exhorting the Congress to confirm my appointments - I have myself no doubt that the first attempt of the Tyrants Mercenaries will be on Virginia - My opinion of the Troops and Officers, is thank God so good as to put me intirely at my ease with respect to action Corps to Corps, I only wish your Provincial Congress and Committee of Safety had taken some precautions for the security of your great navigable Rivers against their pyratical

Russians - and in my opinion nothing could be easier effected - perhaps they differ from the generality of Seafaring People - but as they have their prejudices and are like other professions, a certain pride, I shall not give up my opinion - I would then propose letting your Rivers with twelve or eighteen oared boats - mounting a six pounder at the head of each - fortifying the sides with occasional mantlets musket proof, and manning em with stout Volunteers whose principle should be boarding I am mistaken, when We are sufficiently provided with fleets of this kind, if a single Vessel will shew itself in your Rivers - I have already for experiment sake sent out one boat armed and manned in this manner on a cruize, and expect with impatience the issue - The men have their cutlasses and Pistols and seem to taste the project I shall order twenty for each great River - the expence

to the sharp, and the spirit the very principle of coming to close quarters will [illegible] impress naturally the People with a confidence in their own force and valour — another great point I seem in [illegible] a fair way of attaining — the conversion of Soldiers to the use of spears — We had Battalion out this day; two companies of the strongest and tallest were armed with this weapon — They were formed something like the Triarii of the Romans, in the rear of the Battalion, occasionally either to the two thereby to fill the intervals of the line, or to form a third second or front Rank in close order — It had a fine effect to the eye, and the Men in general seemed convinced of the practicability of the arrangement — in two days, I shall visit Norfolk Suffolk Hemps landing and the great

1971 Gov & Lieu

Dear Sir Wmsburg April 9/12th 1776

I am particularly obliged to you for so readily promising me your Vote & Interest in Favour of Col. Grayson - Before you can receive this you will have seen the Letter to Governor Eden from Lt. Gov. Main They had a good Effect here - I think almost every Man except the Treasurer is willing to declare for Independency - But I fear it is too late for Virginia for if the Attack should be made here, which we have now great Reason to expect, we shall be able to make but a poor Resistance - Our Army is but a handful of raw undisciplined Troops indifferently armed, wretchedly clothed & without Tents or Blankets - our People in some Places discontented about Henry's Resignation, in others on account of the removal of the Troops from their Neighbourhood, & in others at the Apprehension of being removed as the People of Norfolk & Princess are to be into the interior Parts of the Country - In this State of Things God knows what will

be the Consequence of a vigorous Push made by a Fleet & 6 or 7 Regiments.

It is happy for us that General Lee is here, but so weak are we at present, our few Troops being so badly armed & accoutred, that I really pity him - On a Review the day before there were only 500 Men fit for Duty - Tho' there are 3 Companies at York & 6 at Hampton

I trust only to Heaven which has hitherto protected us - (I would to God you could be here at the next Convention - it would be happy for us if you could be all spared on that Occasion; if you could, I make no doubt you might easily prevail on the Convention to declare for Independency & to establish a Form of Government - As it is late I must refer you to the Papers for News & conclude - present my Love to your Brother & Comp.y & best Wishes to all other Friends - I am

my dear Sir most sincerely
yours &c
John Page

P.S. I suppose As Mr. Arundel is appointed
Capt.n of a Company of Artillery to be raised
there you either intended that there sh.d
be 2 Companies, or you did not know that
we had already raised one — if the latter
was the Case I fear there will be some
Confusion here, as Capt.n Innes who is
Capt.n of the Company is a very deserving
Man, & was expelled the College for his
Activity in the Cause; to prevent this
& indeed as 2 Companies are really
wanted I wish you would raise another
& put them both on the continental Establish-
ment —

(1797)

(No 329.)

Papers & Letters
of public & political
Nature.

John Page

1776

No 329

Dear Brother (No 100) Mathews April 15th 1776

I have to thank you for two letters which have come to hand since I wrote you last. Nothing very important has happened this way lately. The last accounts from Carolina mention that Clinton has landed on an Island in Cape-Fear with about six hundred men, where he is chiefly employ'd in teaching his soldiers the street firing. — General Moore watches his motions with an army of 3000. — General Howe, in a letter I recd. yesterday from Halifax N. Carolina, speaking of the Convention which now sits there, says "they have raised three new regiments, and are contemplating on more; — they loose all thought of expence in their ardor to promote the common cause" & further, "Independence seems to be the word, I know not a dissenting voice" The last certain intelligence of the continental fleet left them in Charles Town S. Carolina An express was sent to Hopkins there, from N. Carolina, to inform him, how sure a prey G. Martin, Clinton, & all the immense naval and military stores at Cape Fear would be to him if he moved with his fleet to that place. This event has been since constantly expected with great impatience. General Lee

Lee has held up to the Council of safety at Newbern
a noble object of Naval enteprize at Norfolk &
has urged them to propose the affair to Hopkins, if he
comes that way; with this additional inducement,
that should it be imprudent to return to sea on account
of the number of british ships of war which may be ex-
pected on the american coast, he may by a battery erected
on an Island, at the mouth of the river leading up to Nor-
folk, make for himself a safe harbour against the
Navy of G. Britain. The committee have returned the
General an answer that they think the matter of great
importance, & will inform the Admiral. General Lee
thinks, as I do, that the american cause would be greatly
served by your attendance in Convention, which meets
on the 2d of may. You will find there a noble spirit, worthy
to be cherish'd, which if not regulated & directed by a skilful
hand, may dispirate in idle fume, or be blasted by the acts
of sly timidity. I observe in your letter to our Committee
that the congress not having appointed a commissary of
stores, you recommend it to us to continue Col. Dyllet
in the employment of purchasing necessaries for the troops
But would not this be a circuitous and intricate method
of

of proceeding? If an army can not be supply'd in Virginia without collecting things from all corners of the country, nay further, without ransacking other colonies, all which must necessarily require the constant application of a man skilful & diligent in busineſs, why may not the congreſs appoint an officer rendered, by the circumstances of the country, so indispensably requisite? More especially when the soldier will reimburse the whole expence, by a small advance laid on the articles. Is there not some — policy too in making all those who are any way connected with the continental army, accountable immediately to the congreſs. Give my love to all — with you

I am my dear brothers
most aff.t
Thos. Ludw. Lee.

Williamsburg
April 13.th 1776.

(No 100)

Thos Ludwell Lee's
(Probably) to R. H. Lee.
April 13th 1776

(Copy Endorsed) No. 213.)

No 48 213

Rec'd 2d Jun (1776)

Williamsburg 18th Apl 1776

Dear Sir.

I have to acknowledge the Receipt of your very obliging favr of the 2d Instant. Our Enemies are prosecuting their Vengeance, particularly against our Trade, with a relentless & unremitted fury. An Account of these & all other occurrences you will see retail'd in the public papers. The General seems very diligent & active & I make no doubt will put our little Army on a respectable footing. We are in hourly Expectation of the Fleet from Britain. It seems their immediate Destination was for Carolina, with a View, no doubt, to aid the Insurgents of that Province. Clinton's Disappointment in Charlestown will probably be the Means of altering the Plan & it is very likely that Virginia will be honor'd with the first Visit. Howe's Desertion of Boston was shameful indeed; but I wish some of the Southern Colonies may not feel the bad Effects of it. Perhaps it might have been better for the united Colonies in General, if he could, without Danger, have been kept pent up, at least some time longer & until the rest of their forces had been recalled by their Division. It is but now & then that I can snatch a Moment to write a few Lines to a Friend; I was going on, but am interrupted & can only add that I am with much Esteem

Yr mo. ob. Servt.

Ro. C. Nicholas

(No 98)

Robert Carter Nicholas
to
R. H. Lee
April 13th 1776.
2 Letters

(No 294.)

(Copy Letter)

1776

No 294

R. C. Nicholas

To

Richard Henry Lee Esqr

at

Philadelphia.

(No 99) Can. Coll.

Dr. Sir

Liberty Hall 15th apl. 1776

In my last of apl. 1. I acknowledged the rec.
: of your kind favour by Mr. Howe. I am now to acknow:
: ledge yours by post of the 2d March, which contained a
confirmation of what had been before rumored about
that Bostonians in our possession which I am very
glad to hear, as at any rate the driving the British
Army from a place, that they had been in possessi:
: on for near two years, and had rendered as strong
as the nature of its situation would admit of, must
necessarily give the powers of Europe an high opinion
of our Spirit, Strength, & Military abilities — what these
vanquished troops may do next I know not, but am
apprehensive that they will throughout the Colony
do every injury that they can, to all such Towns,
: es &c. as are within reach of the Cannon of their
as to their land forces, even if they are augmented to the full
number that Administration expect, I dont see (provided
America keeps firmly united) any great things that they
can do, all the injury they can do they will, for instead of
any prospect of accommodation, such as America would, or
should consent to, it is plain to me that Great Britain
would crush us to atoms if she were able, and if this
the case, I do not see what, sir, we should hesitate about
now I could wish to hear that it was determined to act the
part of Independence, and declair for a free trade, which in all pro-

hostility might ingage the powers of Europe to protect her part of our trade, this might be productive of a quarrel, and perhaps keep the British fleet with better employment than blocking up our harbours — I am really afraid that our intyres stoppage of trade will be felt more severely than is generally Imagined, and whilst there is no trade, I apprehend we can vinticate one of the papers emitted, quere whether the credit of the paper maynot be affected by it —

I wrote you in my last that none of Braidfoots papers, or the Magazines had come to hand; and by the post that came into Fredericksburg the 2. Inst., we got no papers at all, it is plain our rider is not in fault, because as a proof he has Rec'd, he brought on your letter that came by post, and also a letter from my brother who lives there in town —

The Election of delegates for Richmond County came on Monday the 1st Inst. and I hear Henderson Muse & Thos. Mc Carty were chosen, this is a most unhappy beginning of the ensuing general election. I have not seen Mr. Lee since I wrote you last, but I make no doubt she has lodged a letter at Dall. Hampson to go up by post. —

My House standing with in point Blank cannon shot of the Shipping, I thought it advisable to remove my family and most valuable effects; we are now living in the House where Mr. Ballantine formerly kept store just below Nanzatico Ferry — (Baptized Liberty Hall)

I am with much respect Dr. Sir Your sincerely aff. Friend & Servt. G. Washington

87

To

The Honble

Richd Henry Lee Esqr

in

To be forwarded from Fredericksburg Post Office by the Northward post

Philidelphia

1784

No 455

Ap 23

Dear Sir Ens. L. Sh. (No 102)

Caroline April 29th. 1776

Yr. Obliging favr. of March 28th. found me here a few days agoe enjoying a small relaxation from business before the meeting of Convention, The Committee being reduced to a bare meeting, takes away part of my Furlough & I am to return to them on Wednesday next. I am perswaded the inclination of the British Court is to pursue their scheme of enslaving us, but am inclined to think they have met with so many rubs, as to put on the semblance of Mercy, and make a push with their Commissioners, for reconciliation before it is too late, lest some great heads should be made a Sacrifice for the loss of the Colonies, which I could almost pronounce inevitable after a few Months.

Retrospective laws to cover & Sanctifie Actions that were at the time of their perpetration malum in se as well as Malum Prohibn., are much worse than those (ever reprobated) which inflict an ex post facto Punishmt. for things evil in themselves, but to which the Laws had not annexed a Penalty. Of this sort is part of the Confiscation Act. I am pleased the Congress have Resolved on Reprisals & wish we had it in our power to make them effectually. without that ability I much fear the Opening Our ports, will for some time at least, only prove a temptation to us, to throw supplies of Provisions into the Possession of Our Enemies, who take every Vessel that passes - the Maryland Brigg W. was sometime ago rescued by the defence, is fallen into their hands, & another from that province Laden with Bread & Flour is also taken, but this & other intelligence, such as the seizing young Mr. Wormeley on intercepting a Letter of his to Mr. Jno. Grymes (a fugitive to Dunmore) - the flight & Surrender of Bkr. Nelson, the Capture of a Mr. Cann late an Inhabitant of Wmsburg, but now an Ensign in the Queens Regimt., with the Cause of a heavy Cannonade on James River heard on thursday last &c, you'll get a better Account of by the papers & Letters from Wmsburg than I am able to give. The proposition of the Dunkirk Merchant would be exceedingly flattering to Our tobacco planters, if it was not for the Rub of risquing it to St. Domingo, which I fear will frustrate the whole scheme at least for the present crop, time may and undoubtedly will produce a Remedie. (I feel the propriety & necessity of adopting some such Mode as you propose for constructing Salt works at the

(No 102)

Edmund Pendleton to R. H. Lee. April 20th 1776.

No 295

Public expences; I have generally thought necessary articles would be most probably procured to the Society, by giving bounty's for encouraging Private Adventurers, but having tried this without effect, it will be prudent to risque even a loss of Public money, to secure an Article without which Our people will break through all restraint: We shall be glad to receive the approved method of making it, as we have suffered in other cases by setting out wrong.

When I read the Account of the meeting of dear Freinds in Boston long severed by the cruelty of our now fugitive Enemies & restored by Our brave & victorious troops, what apleasing glow pervaded my whole frame! how delightful the Contrast! Oh Britain how has thou suffered thy renowned Arms to be degraded, by employing them in the cause of Tyranny & Oppression, when Virtue & Liberty was the Sheild & Spear wch made them formidable!. Our 7th & 8th Batallions I beleive are mustered & will be armed as soon as it is in our power. My relation Mr. John Taylor who accompanied me to Philadelphia, has somehow got disappointed in his Wishes to get into the Army; I am told two places are still Vacant, in the gift of the Congress, That of Muster Master, by the resignation of Mr. Randolph, and that of Judge Advocate in wch we have heard of no appointment, either of which Mr. Taylor would accept, tho' greatly prefers the former. I can answer for his fidelity in any thing, and if you are disengaged, Yr. voice & Interest in his favr. will much Oblige him & me. I have perused the length of your Letter, by a transgression of the same kind, if it be one, however you can will not write too long or too often to be agreable to

D. Sr. Yr. affect. Friend

Edm. Pendleton

My Compls. to y. brother

(No 101)

My dear Dabb Sir

Enclosed King William

Virginia, April 20. 1776

Your very friendly and agreable Letter I duly received by post, and can not sufficiently express my obligations to you and my other worthy Dabb friends in Congress for their endeavours to serve me, I can only say this in addition, that I shall make it my study so to conduct myself thro life as to endeavour to merit the good opinion that was so honourably expressed of me in Congress, of which I have been particularly informed. The particular attention that I have been obliged to bestow on the business in my care, has so detached me from my family & own affairs, which are pretty considerable having engaged largely in the wheat business, I have now pretty well supplyed to attend to, that I had thoughts of giving up in[illegible] my publick business as Commissary Store to a worthy young Fellow that I was lucky enough a little before I left Williamsburg to procure as an assistant. That is to say, if it be agreable to the Committee of safety, I intend to continue to contract for the which I really flatter myself I may have executed to great advantage.
I do superintend the whole, but to trust to the young Gentleman above mentioned, who is entirely deserving of full trust and confidence, to distribute the goods, & keep the accts under my direction. I am also urged to this from the particular circumstances in which I stand with the people of this County. They have bestowed on me every mark of their confidence and esteem, having elected me to every first appointment in their power, and were greatly discontented at my absenting myself from them in the manner I have been obliged, when I got home there clamours had got to a great height, and I was threatned with being left out of convention, but my presence at the Election intirely changed the Scene, altho I did not solicit a vote, there had been several candidates but they all declined except one Mr Taylor a very worthy man who had taken uncommon pains & stated to be disappointed, it had been generally said among the people that Colo Braxton being in Congress could not serve in convention,* I endeavoured to convince them that it was now immediately their duty now more ever to elect Mr

* just so was your Brother in Richmond circumstanced,

Braxton, as it would exceedingly lessen our Representation in Congress, for a member who represented the whole Colony to loose the confidence of his particular County. I told them as having always been a principled I could not agree to give up to a person who had never served, and to become a deputy, but that it could be no indignity to Mr Taylor, & that it would save the trouble of a poll, this proposition exceedingly pleased the people who were greatly embarrassed, as they had many of them not only promised Mr Taylor but solicited him to offer under the supposition that Colo Braxton could not be chosen, however Mr Taylor would not consent to it, and the poll was opened, Mr Taylor had secured his Election & my presence gave me the advantage of Colo Braxton, I kept up a majority in my favour from the beginning, the appeared exceedingly unhappy at the situation of Colo Braxton, and as Mr Taylor was but second many ventures were made by the most prevailing arguments that he should resign, & come in as sub delegate, but the affair was carried too far, he would not consent, and just before the close of the poll, finding the people exceedingly unhappy at Colo Braxtons situation, I proposed to them the first on the poll that I would resign, and as they had given me every honble proof of a continuance of their confidence, and as it appeared more from accident than inclination that Colo Braxton was so circumstanced, that I would serve them as sub delegate, this was received with great shouts and acclamations, & the matter ended to the entire satisfaction of every individual — I have troubled you sir with this detail not only that it naturally followed the first subject of my letter but in justice to my friend lest the matter should be unfairly represented for I verily believe had the poll been taken over again, he would hardly have lost a vote. Had I studied my life time I could not have taken so popular a step.

the information you gave me of the arrival of an additional
qty powder since my departure, gave great pleasure to
all who heard it, for Recvd your letter at the Election, the people
of this County almost unanimously cry aloud for indepen-
ence, they are now sensible that nothing but Arms & munition
are wanted & can be wanted under providence to secure
them from Tyranny & Oppression. you see of the Surrender
of Lucbeck tho not authenticated, I hope by this time is
confirmd. then let How & his amaticated dis-
Shawies presume to venture on this Land of Li-
I have no doubt but that we with half their
we will convince them that freemen can not be
Slaves them again into that Element where
can meet with refuge, We have lately taken
with Charlie Neilson of Ustanna on board, he is
in close goal, a letter from the most dishonourable
Ralph Wormley Junr to Dunmore was also intercepted
are sent to apprehend him, and it is said his Father
also. the Capt of the Vessel taken by Barron with
dispatches for Governor Eden from the Ministry with
their contents I presume you will meet with in the pub-
lick papers before this reaches you, may God prosper
all your councils Protect you in health & Happiness
with my highly esteemd friend your Brother & his Amiable
Lady to whom I present my most respectful compliments
also to the worthy Coll Harrison & Mr Tilghman, Coll Braxton
I have wrote to. Believe me to be with the most perfect
sincerity respect Esteem and gratitude D Sir

Your Oblig'd & affe friend & Servt

H Lee

(No 101)

Wm Aylett
April 20th 1778

No 7.

2

No 7.

Aylett

Messrs Lee & Co

Richard Lee Esqr

Philadelphia

D.r Sir Com.d L.d Stir. (No 103) Liberty Hall 22.d Apl. 1776

[I had the pleasure to recieve your favour of the 8th. of Apl. inclosing a direction for making of Salt, you may rely on it that I will recommend the carrying into execution as far as I can, that it is an article the want of which will be most severely felt, at least in many parts of this Country, before any Ther admits of no doubt.] I wrote you by post the 15 and in that letter was full and explicit with regard to the News papers &c. to which I beg leave to refer, since then on his return I believe brought all the Northern papers and Magazines, and I have wrote to Col.o Lewis to speak to the post master ab.t suffering this Southern papers to go North about, and to desire that he will direct him to have all the papers for Westmoreland selected from the different Mails and kept for the Westmoreland Riders, and not to suffer a single letter or paper to go out of his Office but to his riders let the pretence for taking it be what it will, even tho it should be proposed to be conveyed a day or two sooner. I wish we could learn where Howe and his Vanquished Army is gone, and also that we could hear some good news from Quebec, if it is not soon by this post I shall begin to fear that it will be as far out of the Lots to hear any good news from there. [You mention that you have opened the ports to all the world but enemies but that you are apprehensive this will not do without

ain't promising ain't did to any such power as should get involved in a War with Great Britain for attempting to trade with us, — I am clearly of opinion that unless we declair openly for independancy there is no chance for foreign aid, but if that and a solemn declaration that we would not trade at any rate with G. Britain for some certain time would answer the end, in my poor opinion it would be better than engaging ain't did in any other way, as that would seem like forming alliances and connections, which we should be better without, for tho their trade might make it ain't interest, unless ain't circumstances absolutely require it — all Officers under the Crown are certainly uncommissioned, & that we can no longer do without some fixed form of government is certain, that we have done as well as we have under ain't present no form is astonishing I believe to every reflecting mind and really not to be accounted for but by providence

I am happy in hearing from you that we may expect a well digested form of Government to be sent to ain't next Convention for tho it is that ain't Convention stands in need of advice at least in matters of such great importance, and I really fear this will want more than the last. The choice in Richmond was most unfortunate for unhappy, in Northumberland Jacky Grawly is chosen in the Room of Col. Thruston, in Essex Mr Lyne made a good

choice Col.o S. Lee & M.r S. Smith — I am very sorry to find your letters for your Lady come so badly to hand, if you think proper to inclose your Letters for Mrs. Lee under cover to me you may rely on it that a Servant shall be always sent express with them to her, I want much to see Mrs. Lee and desire her to send her Letters to me that I may inclose them, as the Post is very calm on me going and coming I think she will get your Letters and your's with greater certainty — I understand that a Letter for Mrs. Lee the post before the last was lodged at Westmoreland Court House and not called for — since writing the foregoing I am informed that Mr. Carter is returned from Wm.b.g and brings the following News, that there has been a Skirmishing engagement in N. Carolina, Martin commanded, was defeated with the loss of 20 Men, no loss on our side. that Genl. Lee has ordered all the regulars to suffolk. the Hon.ble R. Woodley & Chas. Nelson is Gone in Wm.b.g as Enemies to America — I am D.r Sir

Your Sincerely affect.e Friend

I Thos Jeff.n Washington

N.B. Thos. Commander our rider is desirous of taking Dunlops paper himself, now as you are one of the persons who are to pay him, you would use us rich in ordering the paper for him as the cost of the paper will discount so much, out of what you will have to pay him

(N°103)

(No 436.)

Col. Washington

1776

No 456

To The Hon.ble Richd. Henry Lee

D.S. M. Wests. April 27. 1776

(No 104)

You will do nothing in Maryland without a Contenental Regiment to carry your Resolves into execution the Pay at Baltemore appoint Officers of ourselves, the People at Baltemore say. Eden commands now more then ever for he commands the Council of Safety. Convention & Committees. his & D—gs influence carries every thing here. Col. Rogers or M.Donald of Frederick County would be a proper Officer to be employed on ye Expedition against Detroit. Gen. Washington & Gov. Stephens know him well & Gov. D. had allowed him he would have destroyed all the Shawanese Indians down the Ohio. Gen. Lee is gone to Virginia. he has all the Spirit of a Soldier. Adieu.

(No 104)

April 27th 76

Dear Sir Eric's Letter (№105) April 27 1776

Since my last nothing very material has happened with us, or at least I have heard very little news; our papers never coming to hand, altho Purdie and the other printers have been expressly ordered to send them to Fredericksburg for our Rider. A Tender came last Week to Hobbs Hole and took a new England man loaded with grain & Flaxseed from the Wharf, an Alarm was given and the Militia of Essex and Richmond pursued them in Vessels they retook the prize and brought her back; the Tender escaped the pursuit with in three miles of Urbanna, Onegro fellow belonging to Walker who was Shipper of his boat was killed & no other damage done to our men. We have a Report which I believe to be true, tho it may be improper to propagate it untill fully confirmed, that Young Mr Wormeley is under close Confinement in Williamsburg, he was taken in a Tender going to Dunmore. Charles Nielson & John Gray mes~~to~~ ~~and Wormeley Hites~~ were also taken in another Tender carrying provisions to that Monster. If this news be true I doubt not they will meet with their deserts. Since I wrote the above piece of News it has been confirmed to that as to that he has a guard over him and not in close confinement. it may be depended upon. I am astonished we hear nothing from Quebec; Our Success as it will be of the utmost Consequence to our Cause.

I observe the Pensylvania Papers are filled with the controversy about Independance and think the Writers have rather left the Question What matters it to us at present whether Monarchy is reprobated by the Almighty or not; It will be time enough to consider what kind of Government is best suited for America when we have determined our selves independant; indeed every man who wishes to be free will be forming Opinions relative to the form of Government And those Opinions it would do well to communicate; but the present contest between Cato & Cassandra should be, the Expediency or Inexpediency of Independence. However, if you will give me leave I will shew you my Sentiments of Monarchical Government as established amongst the Jews. My thoughts are not well connected, as my Avocations so frequently take me off from the Subject that the chain is often broke.

If [illegible] be agreeable to you [illegible]

most abject Slavery not less content with it or in a greater State of Ignorance, than by no means so ignorant as numbers of our Slaves here, their whole history shews it; that they were Heathens no one will deny for what few religious rights they had were from the Egyptians. of course they had no form of Government until they arrived in the land of promise and it was left to them by their Lawgiver Moses. They never gave themselves the trouble to reflect on the Nature of Government, and it was sufficient for such a set of Wretches to obey the dictates of their Judges, especially as they believed every ordinance came from God. What their form under what kind of Government they really did live in the time of the Judges it is extreamly difficult to if not impossible to judge; for as to calling it a Theocracy it is talking Nonsense, because every State in the Universe is equally a Theocracy. Whoever believes in a particular Providence must acknowledge that the Events of States are governed by the Almighty, and I am sure the Hand of God has been with us. It is true as the Jews were in such a State of Ignorance as to be unable to make any Laws for themselves, God did prescribe a set of Laws for them, such as would be sufficient for their Government, that his wise purposes in bringing abt. the Redemption of man by his Son Jesus Christ might be fully answered; but he left the Execution of these laws to the people themselves. He was well acquainted with their Ignorance he knew their fond of the Customs of their Egyptians, and that they would seek every opportunity to return to them, and his Laws were calculated to keep them seperate from those as well as other Heathens. Those paid divine honors to their Kings, and he, as himself declares, being a jealous God, took every means to prevent them from falling into the same Error; knowing that a person placed so far above the level of the people would lead them to Idolatry whether he placed. He knew that all felicity would be at an end and their Slavery under a King would be as great as whilst they lived in Egypt. How then must the Almighty resent their demanding a Monarch to reign over them. Had they been had to have formed [illegible] Government [illegible]

It was not particularly with Saul but with all their Kings. Look through the whole catalogue of Kings (it is very long one) and you will find few, very few, but what were a curse to them. The much admired King David† was as great a curse to them as any other. What constant Wars was he engaged in during his whole life, and what a punishment did he bring on them for no appearance of a fault in them, the Lost of three score and ten thousand men purely for his own disobedience of the Commands of God, or his own pride or folly. Can it be thought that the Almighty would have been so unmerciful to his people if it had not have been to shew them the improspriety of having a King for whose Trespasses they were to suffer. God had expressly declared to them long before they asked a King that they would do it and that he would punish them for the Offences of their Kings they should ~~ad~~ over them see the 28th. Cap. Deuteronomy to the 37th. Verse. Hosea in the 13th Chapter 11th. verse says "I gave thee a King in mine Anger and took him away in my wrath" In short god was displeased with their demanding a King and was determined they should suffer for his crimes that they did suffer consistently for their Kings faults will be seen by any person who will give himself the trouble to read their History whilst governed by Kings

† The character of David is much misunderstood. He was indeed a sinner, but he was the humblest penitent of sinners.

Let us see how he has refuted Common sense by producing a few texts of Scripture to shew God was no enemy to monarchical Government but rather approved of it "When thou art come into "the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, and shalt say I will set a King "over me like all the Nations that are about me" does not this smell strong of Monarchy and even of Hereditary Monarchy? I answer that God has expressly declared his displeasure with the Jews for asking a King; but he knew long before they did demand one that they would do it, and he only tells them if they should be so foolish as to do it what sort they should choose & declares how he ought to conduct himself by which Conduct he should obtain his favor. It was necessary for the purposes of the Almighty [illegible] before the [illegible] and subsist as a people a certain time [illegible] punish

(No 105) [No 351.]

their days in the Kingdom shall be prolonged. It is pity Cato has not the Candor to compare the Scriptures, a crime he accuses Common Sense of. Cato gives a plain proof that he has a good deal of Priest craft, Is he not a scotch Clergyman? I should have proceeded a little further but am just called off and indeed I fear you are fully tired with what I have wrote. Farewell & be assured I am with the greatest Esteem

Your most affectionate Friend

Richd. Packer

April 27th. 1776

[5] It is to be observed that Hezekiah the last King of Israel together with the whole people, except Judah which was governed by other Kings, was then in Captivity. The fate of Judah was prolonged a few years upon Acct. of the good Reign of Hezekiah. But it was but a short time before that Kingdom was destroyed & the whole people Captives to the Babylonians. Thus we see as God gave them a King in his Anger he now took him away in his Wrath and suffered his people to be punished by reducing them to Slavery in a strange Land. If Monarchy was not a Curse to the Jews, let Cato say.

No 351

R. Peters Esqr. Philad.a

R. Parker

Jews

Virginia, Aquia April 28th 1776.

Dr Sir.

This will be delivered to you by a Mr. Doyle, an industrious, honest trader, who has for these two or three years resided in Dumfries. He takes with him to Philadelphia a quantity of our Convention Money, by which he was doubtful he might lose; His doubts on that head are in part removed as he has heard our Delegates gave Continental money in Exchange for this Currency. Indeed, if possible, some such measure ought be fallen on to support its credit, which, we here conceive to have been much hurt, for not having been emitted in Dollars. As he is a total stranger to all the Delegates, I could not but recommend him to your good offices, should he stand in need of them, on ye above account. Should any recommendation be of any service to him, it will give me a particular satisfaction.

I dined & lay[illegible] at Bel[illegible]. The Family were well. I made it my Business to enquire after yours, at Chantilly. They had just the day before heard from thence. I have ye pleasure to inform you they were well and Mrs Lee was gone to Northumberland.

In many counties here have been warm contests for seats in our approaching convention. Many new ones are got in. The Papers will partly inform you of ye changes. Colo. Mason with great difficulty returned for Fairfax. Our Friend Harry Heath push'd in Williamsburg where Cad Bullett succeeds Blackburne. Will Grant for Stafford in Room of Charles Carter. In Fauquier, where were 5 candidates, Martin Pickett in Room of Marshall.

a Vessell in James River bound for Glasgow, with many Passengers on board, was seiz'd, as British property. A considerable quantity of Specie taken, for which Generals Lee willingly gave ye Owners, [illegible] and they were as unwillingly obliged to receive, Convention Money. Three Sloops belonging to ye Factories of Fredburg & Falmouth seized in Rappahannock. In one of which it is said, I believe with truth, numbers of Scotchmen were ready to embark. It's not believed they would have attempted to cross ye Atlantic in ye Sloops. They would probably have

Exchang'd her for a letter vessell with Lord Dunmore.
Charles Nelson, John Groines, and sundry others from that
part of the Country, had procured a vessell, embark'd their
effects, and join'd a tender in ye Bay, which had just
before taken a New England Schooner. Nelson and other
passengers went on board the Tender, to pass the night;
a storm arose, the Captn of ye New England prize
was adroit enough to ship his cable, but that of the
vessell on which Nelson & Com^y effects were. They
both drove ashore, were seiz'd, and secur'd. Nelson be-
unable to proceed for want of cloaths and Money, came
ashore, and demanded their property. They were immediately
arested, carried to Wm^sburg, and thrown into Jail. Nelson
however was admitted on Giving Security to take his trial
in Middlesex agreable to ordinance. In one of his trunks
was found a Letter from A. Wormley Junr. to L. Dunmore
the contents have not transpired. a Guard was sent im-
mediately to apprehend him, he has been in Wm^sburgh
and is to take his trial before the Convention.
I have just heard that [redacted] by some [redacted]
of that it is certainly so,
culars, that may perhaps es-
notice. If you have not
they'll prove acceptable.
the regard and esteem

P.S.
Commend me to your
Brother. Mrs Lee of Belvoire
begs, if not already sent, you'll
contrive her Linen by Mr Doyle.

Richie of Hobbs Hole, and another
are arrested. When and where for,
I cannot tell. These are Particu-
lars you'll other Correspondents
have them before, I make no doubt.
At any rate, I hope they'll prove
I have for you. Jason, Dr Sir,

y^r most Obed^t Hum^l Servt
Robt Brent

[redacted]

To

Richard Henry Lee Esqr

a member of the Continental Congress.

in

Philadelphia

In favor of
Mr Doyle

(No 106)

Robt Brent

April 28th 1776

(No 16.)

No 16

Brent Robt

(N°135)

The R. H. L. Dr.

Travelling from Philadelphia at 1/ a Mile	23.0.0
1775 & 1776	
To 145 days including the 30th of April 1776 at 4/ 5 p.r Day	326.5.0
2 Servants going & returning to & from Phil.a Jan.y 1776	4.9.0
To 5 days attendance in Convention	2.10.0
6 Travelling days	4.6.0
4 Servants	1.4.6
	£361.8.0

Sept.r 1776

By Mr. Treasurers exchange & Cash	200.0.0
March 1776 By 300 dollars received in Philadelphia out of the bills Mr. Treasurer sent by me for use of Delegates at 5/9	86.5.0
	£286.5.0

£61.0.0
286.5.0
Virg.a Curr.y £175.3.0 due R. H. Lee
Order for Home 30.0.0 30th April 1776
£45.3.0 Virg.a Curr.y due R.H.L.
30 April 1776

no. 299

R. H. Lee's Acco.t
with Treasury Virg.a
30 April 1776
Bal. due R. H. L
£45. 3. 0 C. Curr.y
150 1/2 dollars

(1135)

Gentlemen (No 107) Alexandria May 8 1776.

Inclosed is a draught of our Commissioners of
Yan for Ten thousand Dollars, wch is in order to discharge
Contracts our Situation obliges us to make, in payment,
equipping the Naval department for this River. —

Virginia Currency does not carry with it that due weig
to do in our neighbouring provinces. Advantages is taken
by them. which obliged us solicit this favour. that our pa
might at least be brought upon a par. and advantage
Calany. — Colo Nicholas's necessary absence, & the Convent
afflicted with the gout, will occation the draughts to be ma
singly. wch he desired me to mention to you — I have alre
drawn upon you dated the 6th. payable Wm Alexander &
for one hundred & ninety three (193. dollars. — also one pay
to Josiah Watson Twenty five hundred dollars. (2500.) in pa
for the Sloop American Congress and one other payable to W
for Three hundred Sixty five Dollars. (365.) and propeses draw
to draw. as our necessity's raises — I am in hopes the Sloop Cong
the Sloop Liberty. and a Pilot boat Tender will be at the mouth of
the River in a few days. at same time Convay the Brig Lexington
Laden with Tobacco. into same place of Safety on the bay. that sh
may take the advantage of a favourable winde. — The Sloop Scorpio
will not be ready for this cruise — by hurrying on the outf
these Vessels. where we have met with many obstacles in

terials, has stoped our proceeding going on as fast as we could with
hing the Row Galleys — but hapes Thro' your Means. shall get
. from Mr Lee, and Two 18 pounders from Mr Hughes Works —
Mr Clapham was mentioning an inclination you expressed
ing a frigate on this River. and mentioned Alexandria. th
would be a proper place. but in our opinion lays too
exposed to be annoyed by the enemy. places within a few
we think might be adopted. for the purpose. and in security.
ient for Timber. — if this is agreable to you. I will make such
ies as may be thought necessary — Mr Fleming is an honest
th full workmen. and a good many Carpenters about
may be procured. and should hope to satisfaction. Iron &
ing else in plenty — I know it is the sentiments of Colo Mason
myself. to render any Service in our power to our Country
th all due respect Gentlemen

Your Mo Obt Servt
John Dalton

May 6. draught payble Alex Hamilton
for . . 192 dollars.
8. draught payble Josiah
Watson . . 2500. do.
8. draught payble
Wm Hartshorn . . 365. do
3057 dollars. —

Since writing the Above your favour of the 29th ulto. is come to
hand. inclosing an Acct. of Lead. Cartridge Paper &c. Amount

277 11/16 dollars. The lead is not yet come to hand. nor the pen
wch we hope for soon — nor the steps that we yet send

(May 7)

Note worth expunging.

Comm. of Supply's order for
10 thous. Rd's — in favr.
Cols. Mason & Mr. Dallas
Their draft for 193
2500
365
5058

To
The Honble the Delegates
from Virginia in Congress.
Philadelphia

May 6.
8.
8.

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The following document is a copy of a letter from Charles Lee to Patrick Henry (c.f. Wirt Henry, *Patrick Henry - Life Correspondence & Speeches (1891)*, I 383 - 385.)

(7) [illegible] 1st May 1776

Daniel [illegible] (Jo: Dickinson and [illegible] [illegible] addressed with Letter but not enclosed
in Letter (Jo: 109) [illegible] by whom the signature being
erased the latter part of the surname looks as if it
was Randolph)

If I had not the highest opinion
of your candor and liberal way of thinking, I should
not venture to address myself to you, and if I was
not equally persuaded of the great weight and influ-
ence, which the transcendant abilities of your person, must
naturally confer, I should not give my self the trouble
of writing nor you the trouble of reading this long
Letter — Since our conversation yesterday, my thoughts
have been solely employed on the great question, which
Daniel night, or ought not to be immediately
declared? Having weighed the arguments on both sides,
I am clearly of opinion, that the must (as the value
the liberties of America, or even her existence) with-
a moments delay declare for independance — If
my reasons appear weak you will excuse 'em, for
the disinterestedness of the Author — as I may venture
to affirm that no Man on this Continent, will fairer
if more than myself by the seperation — But
if I have the good fortune to offer any Argument
which have escaped your acute understanding,
and they should make the desired impression — I
shall think I have rendered the greatest service
to the Community) — The objection you made
yesterday (If I understood you right) to an im-
mediate declaration, was, by many degrees the
most specious (indeed it was the only) tolerable one
that I have yet heard — You say (and with great
Justice) that We ought previously to have settled
the

the pulse of France, and theirs — I more than believe, I am almost confident that it has been done — at least I can assert upon recollection that some of the Committee of Secrecy have assured me, that the sentiments of both these Courts, & their agents, had been sounded, and were found to be as favorable as could be wished — But admitting that we are utter strangers to their sentiments of the subject, and that we run some risk of this declaration's being coldly received by those powers, — such is our situation, that the risk must be venture On one side there are the most probable chances of our success, founded on the certain advantages which must manifest themselves to French understandings, by a treaty of alliance with America. The strength and weakness, the poverty & opulence of every state, are estimated in the scale of comparison with her immediate rival — The superior commerce, and marine force of England, are evidently established on the monopoly of her American trade. — The inferiority of France in these two capital points, had its source consequently from the same origin. any deduction of this monopoly, must bring down her line in proportion to the deduction, as the total annihilation of this Commerce, must reduce her to an inferiority, or perhaps to total subjection — The French are and always have been sensible of these great truths — Your Idea that they may be diverted from a line of policy which ensures to them such immense and permanent advantages, By an offer of peace from Great

Britain

Britain, appears to me, if you will excuse the term, an absolute chimera. — They must be wretched politicians indeed, if they would prefer the uncertain acquisition, and the precarious expensive possession of one or two Provinces to the greater part of the Commerce of the whole. Besides were not the advantages from the latter so manifestly greater than those that would arise from the imagined partition schemes — It is notorious, that acquisition of Territory or even colonial possessions, which require either Men or Money to Retain, are entirely repugnant to the Spirit, and principles of the present French Court, it is so repugnant indeed, that it is most certain They have lately entertained thoughts of abandoning their W. Indian Islands, le commerce & l'Economie, are the cry, down from the King to the lowest Minister, from these considerations I am myself convinced, that they will immediately and essentially assist us; if independance is declard — But allowing that there can be no certainty, but mere bare chances in our favor, I do insist upon it, that these chances render it your duty to adopt the measure; as by procrastination our ruin is inevitable; I think it now to be determined to wait the Result of a previous formal negociation with France a whole year must pass over our heads before We can be acquainted with the Result — In the mean time we are to struggle through a Campaign without Arms, ammunition or any one necessary of War — disgrace and defeat will infallibly ensue, the Colonists, and officers will become so dispirited, that they

(No 109)

May. 8th 1776

Gen. H. Nelson Jr

They will abandon their Colours, and probably) rather be persuaded to make another effort — But there is another consideration still more cogent. I am assure you, Sir, that the Spirit of the People (except a few in those lower parts where little blood has been sucked out by Musketoes) cry out for this declaration, the Military in particular; Men, and officers are outrageous on the subject — and a Man of your excellent discernment need not be told how dangerous it would be in our present circumstances, to daily) irritate the Spirits, or disappoint the expectations of the bulk of the people — May not despair, anarchy, and finally) submission be the better fruits? I am perswaded firmly, that they will — and in this perswasion I most devoutly) pray, that you may not merely) recommend, but positively lay injunctions on your servants in Congress to embrace a measure so necessary) to Salvation — God almighty) bless you, Sir, and make your counsels whatever they may be, as beneficial to your country as your capacity to serve it, is — undoubted

I am Sir your most obedient humble Servant

[redacted]

(Copy)

(2nd) Richard Parker Jr. No.

(2nd)

In Convention ... 10th May 1776

(2d)

The following proceedings were had to Wit

By the Committee appointed to examine the Papers laid before
vention relative to the charge exhibited by the Council of S
Samuel Purviance Junr. of Baltimore Town

Your Committee do report that they have examined the
laid before the Convention from which it appears to your Committee
that the charge arising from the said Papers falls under the following
heads.

First, that the said Samuel Purviance since the rising of
the last Convention hath usurped a power to direct the operations
of the Military Force of this Province (at a time when the Council of
Safety, to whom the same solely & properly belongs in the Recess of
Convention, was Sitting and might without Inconvenience have
been applied to) As appears by his letter of Instructions to Capt.
Samuel Smith of Colonel Smallwoods Battalion, bearing date 11th
April last, a Copy of which, attested by the Clerk of the Council of Safety
your Committee refer to.—

Secondly, that the said S P being at the time of his writing
the said Letter and giving the said Instructions Chairman of the
Committee of Baltimore County, did write the said Letter
give the said Instructions under Colour of his said Office of
and as if at the Request of the said Committee, whereas
Committee were not consulted thereon, nor made acquain
as appears by the said Letter & Instructions and by the proce
of the said Committee; attested Copies whereof, among the said Paper
are refer'd to.

Thirdly that the said S. P. by Writing & Speaking & Particularly
by a Letter by him written to the President of the Congress some time
about the middle of April last hath unjustly represented the
Convention & Council of Safety as irresolute and afraid to execute the
Trusts reposed in them and endeavoured to draw a suspicion upon
them of a want of Spirit & zeal in the execution of their duty.

On Consideration of the above report of the Charges against
S P, Resolved that Thursday next be appointed for the appear
ance of Mr S. P. to Answer the Charges exhibited against him,
but if it should appear by Affidavit that Mr John Smith (whose
Testimony Mr S P alledges is material to him) cannot be had
on that day, then the Convention do order that Mr P shall
as aforesaid on the Saturday following at 9 O'Clock in the Morn

On Reading a second time the Petition of Mr James Hut
of B. A. County, resolved that the same be taken into Con
Thursday next

Following is a Copy of the Petition

To the Honble the Convention of Maryland

The Petition of James Hutchings of [illegible] County humbly

Sheweth That your Petitioner since the sitting of the Honble Convention did obtain leave from the Co[illegible] of Safety to load the Schooner Fanny, of which he appointed James Carmichael Master, and procured a Cargo of Corn in order to be put on board the said Vessel, for the purpose aforesd. that the said Vessel being in the Harbour of Baltimore Town in Patapsco River, a Captain Samuel Purviance Junr. on or about the 4th. day of March last did seize & sink the said Schooner in the Harbour aforesd. whereby your Petitioner is prevented of the opportunity of prosecuting the intended Voyage and the Cargo aforesd. is lying on his hands.

Your Petitioner further Sheweth that the said Purviance on or about the 15th. day of April last did seize & forcibly take from on board a Boat belonging to your Petitioner 5 Barrells of Turpentine, the Property of your Petitioner which your Petitioner was sending from Baltimore to Broad Creek in [illegible] County, for which your Petitioner has had no Compensation. Your Petitioner humbly conceiving that such proceedings are not warranted by any proper Authority, and are disrespectfull to the Power of the Council of Safety. — humbly prays your honors will take his Case into Consideration and grant him such relief therein as you in your Wisdom shall think just & reasonable for the Injuries he has sustained & that a day may be appointed by your honors for a hearing

and he will pray &c.

Extract from the Minutes C Dorsett Clk.

Williamsburg May ye 10th 1776

My Dr Lewis -

Yr Brother and I think from the tenor of yr letters that the pulse of the Congress is low; and that you yourself with all yr vigor are by others somewhat more contracted in yr hopes than We wish to have found - by the eternal God if ye do not declare immediately for positive Independence We are all ruin'd - there is a poor cast of Spirit and language in the late proceedings of the Congress that I confess frightens me so much, that at times I regret having embark'd my all, my fortune life and reputation in their bottom I sometimes wish that I had settled in some country of Slaves where the most tyrannic Master governs however let the fate of my property be what it will - I hope I shall preserve my reputation and

Resign my breath with a tolerable degree of grace

God bless you - I cannot write more at present

Ye Cassius, I am sick of many griefs -

Yours - most entirely

Charles Lee

for God's sake exert yourselves, I dread every hour to get possession of Niagara and Detroit — it appears to me that ya have thrown away all ya money and attention on our damned fleet - which will do us little service - and neglected the most important objects. I wish ya would send us a detail of the Maryland alarm at my monstrous conduct - what an assembly of Demi-Gods is this Convention? -

P. S. Enclosed you have a letter from General Lee to Mr. P. Henry. The General has no objection to this being published provided their names be not mentioned, such a variation of title & manner that Mr. H. may not know it to be the very letter addressed to him. He suppose it was introduced in this way—it dated Virginia from one independant to another, who differed on the mode to be pursueing the proper mode to be pursued for effecting the independance of A. equally wished for by both.

Yrs. affy. F. L.

206

Phila. Dec. 20.

Richard Harris Esq.

Member of the Corporate Body

Philadelphia

Edm. S. Moore (No 110)

Dear Sir Williamsbg 11 May 1776

Before I left Westmoreland I had orders left at the Post Office in Fredericksbg, that all letters from the Northward for me should be sent here, in consequence your letter and one from the Genl. came in yesterday by the Post, your Letter for Mr. Lee goes of this morning by Capt. Gaskins a Lieutenant immediately to Northumberland County, where Mr. Lee is, and will go with speed.

The first day the house met they determined to go into a Committee of the whole to take under consideration the state of the Colony on Friday the 10th. last the day preceding a motion was made relating to the removing of Norfolk & Princess Anne County all the Male Negroes above 13, and all such white persons as were open Enimies, or neutrals. and all the stores except a bare present subsistance for such Friends in those Countys, this business will imploy the greatest part of this day, I have no doubt but it will be carried for the removal, and it is necessary it should be finished before and the proper orders given before Genl. Lee & Howe sets off for N. Carolina, when the service seems to call for them, having rec'd. a letter from the Commissary that 8 Transports had arrived with troops at Wilmington, supposed abt. 2,000, and that the rest of the Transports to the number of 40 in the whole might be expected shortly, the General has ordered one Batalion to Carolina, and

The Convention have ordered up wards of 1,000 Militia to hold themselves in readiness next to receive the General orders if he should want them there — I hardly think that the Grand question will come on before tuesday next, as this day will be chiefly taken up in the Norfolk business, for on Mondays the house is generally thin, when it does there will be much altercation, but I believe no doings but that we shall determine upon taking up Government, but whether they may be so explicit as I could wish in their instructions to our Delegates I cannot determine, but hope there is no good doings — I shall write to you by next post how things are going on — I am sorry to hear Dr Bush has not settled into our hands, beg in to you the same as I do. I am advanced to expect the reduction of this session, General Clinton is at Carolina, and I suppose will Command that Army — the information we have from N. Carolina is that when all the transports arrive the troops will amount to 9,000 but this I do not believe, I question much whether there will be above half that number — I am D.r Sir Your sincerely aff.t Friend &c. John Aug.e Washington

(No 1101)

(No 457.)

1

To

The Honble

Mich.l Hunyden Esqr.

in

Philadelphia

No 457

Pain's Letter (No III)

Dear Sir, Philadelphia 12th May 1776

Before this reaches you I hope much progress will have been made towards the establishment of a wise and free government, without which, neither public or private happiness or security can long be expected. I make no doubt but you have seen a small pamphlet published here with the Title of Plain Truth addressed to the Convention of the Colony & Ancient Dominion of Virg.a on the subject of Government &c.a This contemptible little Tract, betrays the little knot or Junto from whence it proceeded. Confusion of ideas, aristocratic pride, contradictory reasoning with evident ill design, put it out of danger of doing harm, and therefore I quit it. The difficulty we have to encounter in constructing this fabric from whence so great good or evil may result, & certainly ensue, consists in blending the three simple forms of Government, so as to prevent the inordinate views of either from unduly affecting the others, which has never been the case in any although it was the professed aim of that system. But there a fine design was spoiled in the execution. The prerogative of making Peers & Boroughs effectually destroyed the equipoise, and presented an opportunity of applying that corruption which has since swallowed up every thing of freedom in that Country — However imperfect the English plan was, yet our late government in Virginia was infinitely worse — Witness, a Junto of the Legislative & judiciary powers were in the same hands — In truth, all was very near a Tyranny, altho the mildness of which it was executed under whig direction, made the evil little felt. Abridged duration, temperate revenue, and every unnecessary power withheld are potent means of preserving integrity in public men and for securing the Community from the dangerous ambition that too often governs the human mind — But as my next Journal

(No 111)

R. H. Lee to (Authority) E. Pendleton

May 12th 1776

(No: 226.)

Where there ought to a gentlemen who knows them so well — I have only to wish your health may enable you to attend to this ardurous [illegible] business with the closeness it deserves — If you consider the fund upon which the war has been hitherto carried on, the great [illegible] growing expence of this contest, and the probable prospect of its continuing for some time longer, I suppose until G. B. has tired out hope of regaining us, it must be decided beyond a doubt, that foreign Alliance is indispensible, and should be immediately sought — Our Trade must be opened, which cannot be done until we get protection for our property on the water, and can induce some competent power to undertake to trade with us. About this no time is to be lost, and therefore I wish that the instructions on this head may be sent your Servants in Congress soon as possible — Would it not be well to appoint Mr. President Nelson the first Governor who accepts, since he has already been in a dignified station? — The Roebuck and Liverpool were lately met coming up the Delaware by 13 Gondolas from this city, when, after 2 engagements on two following days of 3 hours each time — the Ships returned down the river well bored with large Cannot Shot — We have had upwards of 20 Tons of powder & more Salt Petre with several Brass fieldpieces arrived within the last 10 days, and we daily expect to hear of the arrival of the Hessian, Hanoverian & Virginia Convoy — I hope my Country men will send the Articles of Cotton Salt Petre, Arms; and that all sorts of encouragement will be given to Manufactures of every useful kind — Let wire Mills be set up for the purpose of making Wool Cotton Cards — I am inclined to think there is no better way to produce a spirit of manufacture, than by offering very encouraging public rewards for the 1st 2d & 3d on largest quantity of Linnen & Woolen Cloths

(to113)

Montreal. May 17th. 1776

Dear Sir.

I thank You for your Letter of the 3d. of April which Mr Price delivered Me last Tuesday. our Letter to Congress will give You all the Information in our Power relative to our affairs in this Colony.

I am at a loss to express my Astonishment at the Conduct of Congress. almost two Months ago they voted 4 Battalions, and since 6 more Battalions for this Country without the least provision for their support.

We have now 4,000 Troops in Canada & not a Mouthful of food. Pork is not to be procured. Wheat may be bought for Specie, but We have none. — Necessity has compelled Us to take provisions. will this contribute to regain the Affections of this people? I entirely agree with You

at to the Importance of fortifying the pass
at De Chambault. on the Day after We
arrived, it was determined to possess that
post and Jacques Cartier. - but how
can it be done? - on Sunday Col. Maxwell
was at Jacques Cartier with a small force,
and Genl. Thomas was at De Chambault
with 900 Men. they have now a very little
provision. they have no Cannon or store
provisions without Cannon (the greater part
of the Cannon fell into the Enemies Hands)
and they have but little powder. - night
Row came with us, we lost one, but can get
no certain account of the rest. Nothing is
wanting but a Wind for the Enemies frigates
to block the Falls of Richlieu, & then all
Communication by water will be cut off.
General Arnold's Letter will give You
all We know of our affairs below. - I beg
You would seriously attend to our Letters
[illegible]

Congress. our affairs here are almost desperate. unless immediate attention is given to this County it will not only be added lost to us, but add to the enemy. for the love of your Country cease the keen encounter of your Tongues, discard your Tongue Artillery and send us some field or We are undone. - My God, an Army of 10,000 without provisions or powder! - remember our Army are naked Image the fugitives from Quebec.

I hope I shall be excused in saying the Congress are not a fit Body to act as a Council of War. they are too large, too slow and their Resolutions can never be kept secret. - pray divide your Business into different Departments, a War Office, a Treasury Board &c. - follow the British Regulation as to your Army, they have to

(No 13)

one officer too many . . there must be a regimental paymaster — I am not able to point out the Remedy, but I see our affairs in so miserable a Condition, that I think they are almost desperate —

Since the above — Mr. M.Coll, of Cadiz, arrived here; he left Corcette on Monday, he was told by some Irish people, our friends, who came out of Dundee on Sunday, that only one frigate & one Transport, with only two Companies of the 29th Regiment, had arrived there from Halifax; that they came to see if the City was taken. That I was reported in the City, that Lord Howe & his Army were come there. — That there was no account of more ships arrived below — he left Jacques Cartier on Sunday afternoon, our troops had left it the Sunday before, he got to Dr Chamboault on Tuesday Night — our troops had left it on Monday, & arrived at Three Rivers Wednesday ev

4 oClock. P. M. (No 108) — that Gov. Thomas was there, that the Canadians in general were friendly — he was told the frigate that came in, lies in the Bason of Quebec. that he saw two small boats at Anchor at Aux Lemueil, abo. 3 leagues below the Rapids —

Mr. Murdock Steward, a Gent. of Vacuity — he left Three Rivers yesday Morning, the 16th, that Gov. Thomas was there with about 4000 Men. —

I have been called at least twenty Times since I began this Journal — to such as Comy, Govr, Justice, &c. &c. — in which I act in as many Capacities as Molieres Cook. farewell, tell Mr. J. Adams he is indebted to Me several Letters.

Your affectionate &c
obed. Servt.

Sam Chase

McCarroll Comes his Compliments —

S. Chase

(No 117)

Montreal May 13*th*, 1776.

THE Commiſſioners of CONGRESS; deſire to meet the Inhabitants of the City, and Suburbs of Montreal, on Thurſday at 11 o'Clock in the Morning, at the INDIA HOUSE, either in Perſon, or by Deputies, as they ſhall think proper.

MESSIEURS les Commiſſaires du *Congrès* déſirent, que les Habitants de la Ville & Fauxbourgs de Montreal, s'aſſemblent Jeudi prochain à onze heures du matin dans la Maiſon de la Compagnie des Indes, ou en Perſonne ou par Députés, comme il leur paroîtra convenable.

A Montreal, le 13 *Mai* 1776.

I made a Speech to the Citizens
I Hawke

(N° 112)

Notice of Am.ⁿ Comm.ⁿ
To Citizens of Montreal
May 13th 1776

(No 114)

May 18th 1776

My Dear Brother.

Inclosed you have some printed resolves which passed our Convention to the infinite joy of the people here. The preamble is not to be admired in point of composition, nor has the resolve for independency that peremptory & decided air which I could wish. Perhaps the proviso, which reserves to this Colony the power of forming its own government, may be questionable as to its fitness.

Would not a uniform plan of government prepared for America by the Congress, & approved by the Colonies, be a surer foundation of unceasing harmony to the whole? However such as they are the exultation here was extreme. — The british flag was immediately struck on the Capitol, and a Continental hoisted in its room. The troops were drawn out, & we had a discharge of Artillery & small arms. You have also a set of resolves offered by Col. M. Smith; but the first, which were proposed the second day by the President, - for the debate lasted two days, - were preferred. These he had formed from the resolves, & preambles, of the first day badly put together. Col. Mason came to town yesterday after the arrival of the post, I shewed him your letter, & he thinks with me that your presence here is of the last consequence. — He designs I believe to tell you so by letter to day. All your friends agree in this opinion. — Col. Nelson is on his way to Congress, which removes the objection respecting a quorum of Delegates. To form a plan of just & equal government would not perhaps be so very difficult; but to preserve it from being mar'd with a thousand impertinencies; from being in the end a jumble of discordant, unintelligible parts, will demand the protecting hand of a master. I cannot recollect with precision the quantity

of

(No 114) (Nr. 224) Thos Lud: Lee to R. H. Lee. May 15th 1776.

of lead which we have rec^d from the mines, tho' I think it about ten tons. The works are now carried on by the public on a larger scale, and no doubt is entertained here, that a full supply for the Continent may be had from thence, by increasing the number of hands. In my next you shall have a more accurate acct. The fast was observed with all due solemnity yesterday. — The delegates met at the Capitol, & went in procession to hear a sermon preached by the appointment of Convention. Corbin & Wormley are banish'd, the first to an estate his father has in Caroline; the other to his plantation in Berkley. Adieu my dear brother, give my love to London, & let us have the satisfaction to see you assisting in the great work of this Convention.

* (Signed) Thos Lud: Lee

A true Copy from the Original
made Aug. 9th 1858, by N. F. Cabell.

N.B. The original, at her earnest request, was this day given to Miss Fanny Lee, the only surviving Grand-daughter of the writer; subject, however, to be returned, should it at any time hereafter be reclaimed by the authorities of the University of Va.

N. F. C.

* The address is, "Richard Henry Lee Esqr
a member of the
Continental Congress
Philadelphia."

New York May 18th 1776 (207)

My dear Sir

In great haste I write you a few lines to cover the Inclosed — They came in the manner you see them, and as explained in Capt. Langdons Letter to me — I hesitated sometime & in determining whether I could, with propriety, select them from the rest considering in what manner they came to my hands, but as there are some things in each which may serve to irritate I concluded it best to send not only those directed to you but the other also (to Doct. Franklin) under cover to you as you may communicate, and so much of them as you like, I have no time to add — the necessity of vigorous exertions are too obvious to need any stimulus from me. — adieu My D. Sir

I am most Affectionately
Yr. Obt.
G. Washington

P.S. Upon second thoughts, knowing that Doct. Franklin is in Canada, I send you a copy only of the Letter to him (which I take to be from Doct. Lee) and the Original to the Doctor

216

May 8. 1798.

Sir

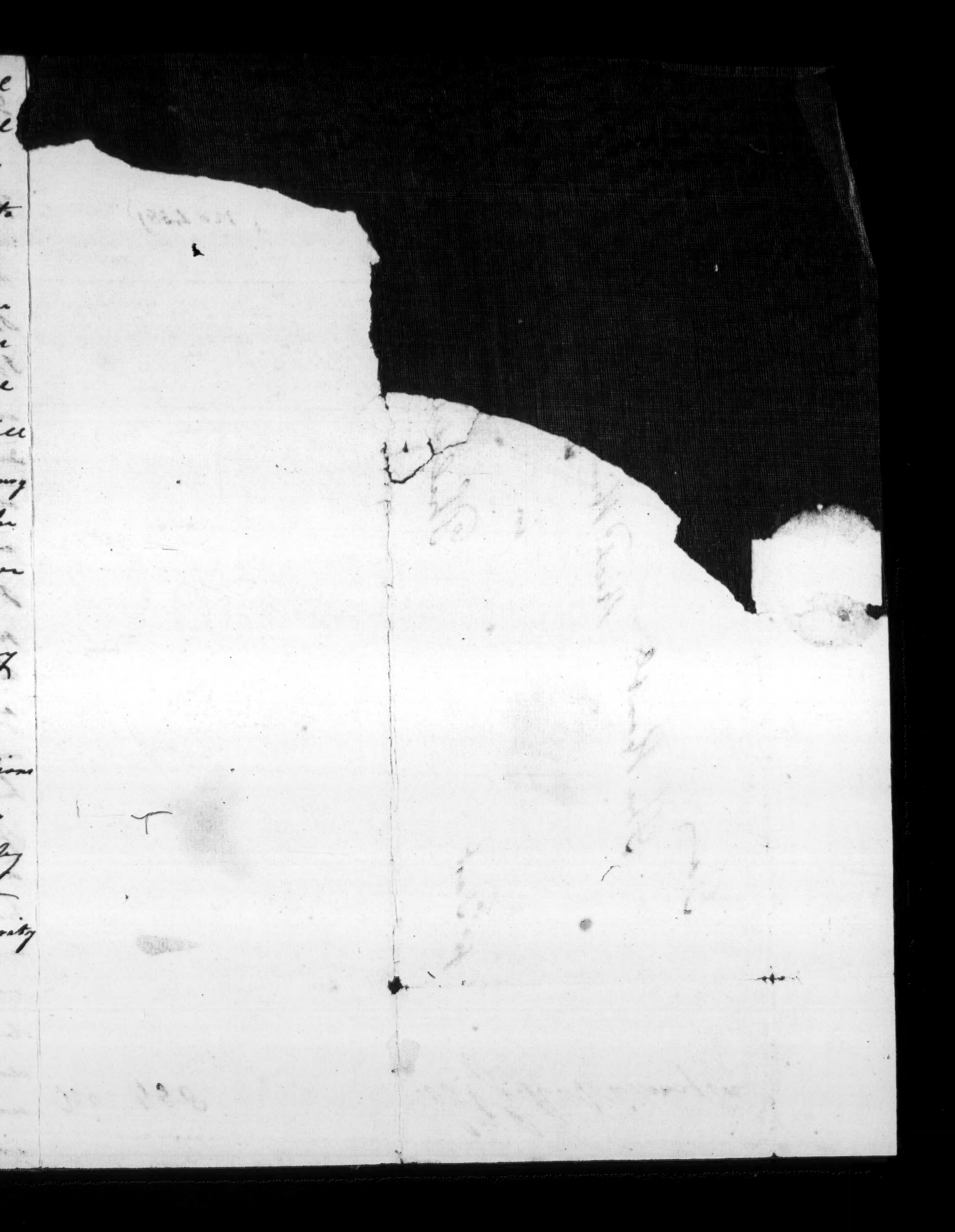
I have the honor to
Inclose to you a Copy of a Letter
of Governor Mifflin of Pennsylvania - on
the Subject of the Philadelphia

Dear Sir

Williamsb.g 10 May 1776

I have the pleasure to inclose you a resolve of our Convention, upon the Subject of taking up Govern: ment, and an instruction to our Deligates in Congress to declair the United Colonies free and independant States, it is not so full as some would have wished it, but I hope may answer the purpose, what gave me pleasure was that the resolve was made by a very full house of without a decenting voice, it might have been better done but the Treasurer (who when the question was put voted for it) took up two days in saying a great deal, proved nothing, however I believe he in some measure puzzled, I am sure he tired, and am of opinion if he had held his tongue the resolve might have been better word: ed, as less time would have been taken up in debating, and consequently more leisure for the Gentlemen, who had been at the pains of drawing up the Resolutions (for there were several) to have compared notes, and agreed on one made out from the many, that might have taken the good parts of the whole — Generals Lee and Howe left this place on monday last for Carolina no news from them yet, nor have we any certainty what num: ber of troops are arrived there — a Resolve passed some days past for removing the inhabitants of Princess Anne and Norfolk both friends & Enimies except such as are immidiately under the protection of our troops, this

has been since altered and now stands. that all Criminal
persons among which Neutrals are considered, and all
male slaves of Military age whether belonging to Friends
or enemies be removed — A committee is appointed to
consider of the best methods, and point out the proper
places for making Salt, also they are to have under their
consideration the proper plan for making Salt Petre and
Gunpowder — I hope the great business of forming a well
regulated Government will go on well, as I think there will
be no great difference in opinion among our best Speakers, Mason, Mercer, Randridge, Smith, and Sam apt to think the President will concur with them in sentiments, the reason with regard to Government &c. was intirely his, —
I am much oblig'd to you for your favour of the 7 of May
which came to my hands yesterday, yours to Mrs. Lee shall be contrived by a safe hand, whilst I remain here your letters for Mrs. Lee will go with greater dispatch if directions were given to Cavender to lodge them with Mrs. Washington who he shall write to, to desire they may be sent express by one of my Servants to Northumberland to Mrs. Lee, —
I heartily wish you health & happiness and am with sincerity
Yours affe. Friend &c.
John Augs. Washington



has been since altered and now stands that all Criminal
powers among which Newtrials are conveyed, and all
such clauses of Military ages which belong to the
[illegible] removed — A Com
consider of the best methods, and
places for making salt, &c. they
consideration the proper plan for
by our power — Shew the great be
regulated Government
be no great difficu
Men, Mea

[illegible]

To
The Honble
Richd Henry
in
Philadelphia

Mr Dent

Mr 4 58

Virginia Memorial

[illegible] 1 320 459

(No 116)

Carlisle 24th May 1776

Hond Sir

I have taken every method to procure Blankets and find it difficult, very few Indian Blankets are to be got, what the people have to dispose of are chiefly Country make and very high Priced, I purchase such as have been a little used provided the are good and Brought in clean, am Obliged to give from 15/ to 22/6 and not in my power to purchase them Lower, I expect to send off three or four Waggons the ninth of June with about 1200 or 1300 Blankets and 1500 Pair of Shoes, Doubt being able to procure the Quantity of Blankets, We are very scarce our Troops raised in the Country have taken off a great number and give such prices that the People which has them to dispose of hardly knows what to ask, there are people up here from all parts which give from 3/ to 3/6 for Wool, this also induces the people to sell their wool and keep their Blankets ——

I have Drawn upon you in favour of Mr. Meredith for One Thousand and Sixty Six Dollars two thirds a Dollar for Shoes purchased of him which I pleas pay, pray favour me with a few lines and your sentiments about the Blankets, may be afraid shall do all I can to Procure them at the Lowest rate, should be glad to hear if an Expedition is still under Consideration with Congress against Detroit, I have purchased Sixty odd yards

(No 116)

of Linning very good when the Woman is done
Bleaching it, will send it agreable to your
Directions, and also send you a patern of the
Cloth, I am with Esteem Hond Sir
Your Most Obd.t
Very Hbl Servt.

Ephm Blaine

No 8

To Coll. R. Hole
Mem.r Congress

Dear Sir W.burg 29 May 1776

The danger I so much dreaded respecting the influence of ministerial villany with the Indian tribes is I fear realizing fast, and the check we have rec'd at Quebec will aid those black & horrid designs. It seems the Cherokees are in bad temper. That the Chickasaws and Choctaws have been greatly acted upon, some chiefs of the latter it is said came to the Cherokee nation and have proceeded with them to the treaty at Niagara. Our whole frontiers are really in a panic & indeed they have cause for the brave & numerous are greatly wanting in ammunition. Now under these circumstances would it not be good policy to turn the strong arm of the Continent in some measure to the Westward? The Two Carolinas and Georgia 3000. Virginia 3500 with Maryland and Pensylvania 3500 choice men to be raised on their several frontiers without a moments delay. There are Wellnigh or quite Rifles & other Guns in that Country to arm them. 2000 of those might join 3000 other Continental Troops & seize

Detroit that Den of inhuman murderers, the other oppose the Indians who May be disposed to Strike and even march to their towns, together with erecting a Strong Fortrup at the Junction of the Ohio & the Miss-Sippie (observing to have the Countenance of the Spaniards in this matter) With other intermediate Forts on the Ohio. While a Strong army is poured into the heart of Cannada from the Northward to oppose the advances of those who may be sent into St. Laurence for assembly the grand Scheme is to take Possession of that Country & turn the Cannadians & Indians upon us, and these movements at present on our Coasts are meerly to amuse, while they Can Secure Cannada & Novascotia & then all their other efforts will be in a piratical way against our trade. For this purpose I suppose they will fortify some Islands Particularly that of Kent in the bay of Chesepeak besides Guvins Just now Possessed by them. Men will enter into this Service with alacrity & without bounty, they may be mostly discharged by Christmas or much sooner if found to be unnecessary. This will be making one great & useful effort & will Strike the Indians with terror. Would it not also be well to propose

immediately a lasting & intimate union with those tribes on the West of the Ohio, by intermarriage stipulating a tract of Land not less than a Thousand acres to be given by them to any of our people that might enter into this connection, the title to be confirmed by Congress? This operating with the present dispositions of the Delawares to civilization and the enjoyment of Separate property, might have a good tendency. I have been told them People have been greatly alarmed by a refusal of Congress to confirm a title to the Lands given to them by the Six Nations, & that the blame of such a refusal rested on Virginia - A great number of light broaches of Silver should Certainly be made without Loss of time. they being a very agreeable Cast to the Indeians. A great many kinds of Silk might also be wrought to advantage for Thier use. A Coinage would furnish hard Cash for the Canadians & other necessary uses. The plate for these purposes may surely be had from those who are well inclined to the Cause for the Consti-

(No 117)

P. Rutherford. May 29th 76

Continental Currency. besides mines of Silver may no doubt be found. Pray excuse this trouble as it proceeds from a warmth of Zeal in the Cause of my Country

I am

Sir

(Committee

1776

With great Esteem

Your Most Obt.

H Blessert.

P Rutherford

Richd Henry Lee Esqr.
on the Congress

1.

My Dear Brother (No 118) June 1st 76

You will find in this a paper containing some resolves &c of a comittee of our whole convention, respecting the base & unworthy proceedings of the Maryland convention. These were, when reported to the house, to our the old phrase, agreed to by an almost unanimous consent, notwithstanding the hearty opposition of a certain junto, who never fail to exert themselves against every measure of any spirit. The history of this business is already so much known to you, that the paper will need no illustration.

I inclosed you by last post a copy of our declaration of rights nearly as it came from the committee it has been since reported to the convention, & we have ever since been stumbling at the threshold. In short we find such difficulty in laying the foundation stone that I very much fear for that Temple to liberty which was proposed to be erected thereon. But laying aside figure I will tell you plainly that a certain set of Aristocrates, for we have such monsters here, finding that their execrable system cannot be reared on such foundations, have to this time kept us at bay on the first line which declares all men to be born equally free and independant. A number of absurd, or unmeaning alterations have been proposed. The words as they stand are approved by a very great majority, yet by a thousand masterly fetches & stratagems the business has been

so

so delayed that the first clause stands yet unassented to by the convention. The truth is we are quite overpowered by the manouvre, & heartily wish the congress would send us another General Lee from the Northward.

A letter from our friend the general was read yesterday morning in the committee of safety, dated Halifax. He was on the point of setting off, for Newbern, the place most centrical to Virginia, Wilmington, and S. Carolina, which ever the motion of Clinton might call him to. He perseveres in the opinion that Virginia, and not Carolina, is their immediate object.

The intelligence our Generals have rec.d of the enemy make them 3000 strong. Tho' this seems not quite certain.

You will see by the Virginia Gazette, which I shall inclose, that Dunmore has procured for himself a much more comfortable situation on Gwins Island than he possessed at Norfolk, where the apprehension of some fire-rafts which were preparing to be sent down amidst his fleet obliged him to flee. I am obliged to you for the trouble you have taken about the linen, & have given my little woman notice it may be expected to Col. Fitzhughs

My Dear brother Adieu

Thos. Lud.: Lee

June 1st. 1776.

1788
1776

Richard Henry Lee Esqr

a Delegate of Congress

Philadelphia

(Chas)

The Lee Papers
Vol. 1 p. 176
(Vol. 227.)

(Col. Lee's
receipt in full)

(97) In Committee of the Whole House 31 May 1776

Sundry proceedings of the Convention of the Province of Maryland, respecting the Letters from Ld. George Germain to Governor Eden, which had been intercepted in Virginia, and transmitted to the Maryland Council of Safety, to give them timely notice of the Duplicity and daingerous designs of the said Governor, and Resolutions containing a request and permission to the said Governor to depart the said Province unmolested, with all his effects, with a passport for that purpose, under colour of his being Obliged, whilst he remained to obey the Mandates of the British Ministry, although the President of their Council of State, upon whome the said resolutions declare the Government devolves, in the absence of the Governor, will be equally under the same Obligation, which proves the necessity of changing their present Government; instead of continuing it, contrary to the resolves and recommendation of the General Continental Congress; together with the Copy of an address to the said Governor, and a letter from the President of the said Convention to the President of the Committee of Safety here, desireing a like passport from Virginia, being laid before this Committee

Resolved as the opinion of this Committee that the said proceedings, Resolutions and address, have been Obtained through the undue influence of the Proprietary Interest and present Government in the said Province of Maryland; that they tend to dissolve the union upon which alone the Salvation of American Liberty depends, and therefore, that this Committee will not in any manner be accessary to the same, nor grant any permission or passport to the said Governor Eden, or his retinue, to pass through Virginia

Resolved also, that a Copy of the said proceedings, Resolutions, and address, of the Maryland Convention together with this resolution be forthwith printed in the Virginia Gazet

Reported and agreed to by the Convention

Mem^d. the above could not be printed in this weeks paper for want of time which induced me to send you the above Copy

Maryland Papers.

(31: May 1776.)

(19) In Convention May 31. 1776

Sundry proceedings of the Convention of the province of Maryland respecting the letters from Lord George Germaine to Governor Eden which had been intercepted in Virginia and transmitted to the Maryland Council of Safety to give them timely notice of the duplicity and dangerous designs of the said Governor and Resolutions containing a Request and permission to the said Governor to depart the said province unmolested with all his effects with a Passport for that purpose under colour of his being obliged whilst he remains to obey the Mandates of the british Ministry although the President of their Council of State upon whom the said Resolutions declare the Government devolves in the absence of the Governor will be equally under the same obligation which proves the necessity of changing their present Government instead of continuing it contrary to the Resolves and recommendation of the general Continental Congress together with the Copy of an address to the said Governor and a letter from the President of the said Convention to the President of the Committee of Safety here desiring a like passport from Virginia being laid before this Committee

Resolved as the Opinion of this Committee that the said Proceedings Resolutions and address have been obtained through the undue influence of the Proprietary

Interest

Interest and present Government in the said Province (Duplicate)
of Maryland that they tend to dissolve the Union upon
which alone the salvation of American liberty depends
and therefore that this Convention will not in any
manner be accessory to the same nor grant any
permission or passport to the said Governor Eden
or his retinue to pass through Virginia.

Resolved also that a Copy of the said proceedings
Resolutions and Address of the Maryland Convention
together with this Resolve be forthwith printed in
the Virginia Gazette.

1776

Sir

Alexandria June 6. 1776.

Since my last to the Treasurer the Delegates I have advised of the draughts I had made, on the 27th ult. I gave another to Daniel Moor for 129. say One hundred Twenty nine dollars. —

I was surprized the other day by an application from Mr Caleb Hamilton to whom, as I advised you in Coxes, I gave an Order for 193. say One hundred & ninety three dollars. Acquainting that that the order was returned, which I must attribute to some Mistake

Lastly to you Sir, as I would not chuse to plague the Treasurer the whole and shall be much obliged to you to acquaint me the reasons. — if it is inconvenient to them to have the draughts made, or point out a mode that I may pursue it, with satisfaction to them as well as us. — I do assure you it will give me pleasure if I can, by any means render my services acceptable to the Country, and you must be sensible of the disagreeableness when in a transaction either for the public or in private, a step goes retrograde — The Committee of Safety upon our Representation, that we could not negotiate Bills enough without a certain loss to the Colony if we had not Continental Money — The payments we should naturally have to make for Necessarys both in Pensylv.a & Maryland required it — by a fatal accident and will be a stab to the credit of this Currency. A present Exchange is asked & necessity will probably establish it. at a discount of 5 ℔ ct. especially as we have nothing to sell to recal our Money back again — shows a heavy Ballance against us. —

I presume the issuing our money is established upon the principles of dollars at 6/9 — this added to the other pipes a certain leak to this Colony to £ & besides there is no knowing where the Exchange will stop; it may by so great a demand of many necessarys wanting and can be had no other way at present, through the Northern Colonies reduced to 11/ or 12/ Indeed I believe it is in many small transactions and necessity occasionally prevails — This is a time that offers itself for a general picture of paper currencys upon the establishment and am in hopes it will not be overlooked as a necessarie among the many points that will probably want fixing —

[The Sloop American Congress & her tender has been down the River more than fourteen days — the Sloop Liberty sails down today. I am afraid we shall not be able to get Cannon from below for the Gallies, we were in hopes of being supplyed from some of those at Hampton — but as the Roebuck & fleet are now stationed at Lewis Island we must apply to Mr Hughes whose guns are now said to turn out well, and as your board was so kind to say you would use your interest with them when necessary we must now request your application to the Committee of Safety in Maryland for Two eighteen pounders to be sent to George Town for the Two Gallies. I believe he does not make above that size — We are told it is necessary to make application to that board as Mr Hughes had contracted

[with them for such a quantity wch is not yet compleyed
as 2 Which we can be ready for them in fourteen days. tho
we have not got the Sail Cloth as yet from Lux tho' manerly
expected — we have another favour to ask — we are distressed
for want of blankets. will you be pleased to engage some One
in Philadelphia to procure & forward them as soon as possible
this is giving you trouble but am in hopes you will excuse it.

I am just informed of an agreeable piece of news. and am in
hopes it will prove true — a Capt Markham inward from Martinique
came up the bay without meeting any thing to detain him. fell
in with the Rac beach off Rappahannock. who he imagines took
him for one of his tenders — as she hoisted Colours to her mizen
the schooner paid the usual Compliments with her Sails
Stole off. into Rappahannock — she is said to have Eight
pawder. a qty of Arms. & ~~Lead~~ Sulpher —]

The fifes. & Pendants for the Vessels are not yet came
tho' same Mistake — shall hope for an Answer. as soon
that I may form a Rule of Conduct & believe me to be with

Sir

Your most obt. Hble Servt.

300. blankets will be wanting if
they can be procured

John Dalton

(No 119)

John Dallas

2 Sellers

Dr

Richard Stevenson Esqr

Philadelphia

Versailles le 9 Juin 1776

Monsieur, la lettre que vous m'avez

Monsieur l'honneur de m'écrire le 3 de ce mois, et dans

laquelle vous me marquez que l'état des

Mortiers de Canon que M. le Prince de

Montbarrey, à qui j'ai communiqué votre

demande, a ordonné à l'état de ce qui peut vous être fourni

et je vous envoie la copie ci jointe. Vous pourrez

en conséquence, Monsieur, vous aboucher avec

Monsieur le Ministre de la Guerre pour les

arrangemens à prendre pour l'expédition que pour la

solde des effets dont il est question.

J'ai l'honneur d'être très parfaitement

Monsieur votre très humble et très

obéissant serviteur

De Sartine

Translation

Versailles June 9th 1776

I received, Sir, the letter which you did me the honor to write
the 3d of this month, in which you state the wants of the State of
Virginia in Cannon, Mortars &c. Prince Montbarrey to whom
I communicated it, has just sent me a state of what can be

furnish to you, which accompanys this
may therefore, Sir, communicate with this Minister
both upon the manner of sending the supply
for these Supplies.

I have the honor to be &c &c

De Vergennes

Sir Joseph Jones, Thomas Conlee, Robert Taylor, James Procter and John Hogan Esquires Representatives for Prince George County in Convention

We the Officers and Privates of the 11th Battalion of Militia, Inhabitants of Prince George County, for ourselves, and on behalf of many of the good People of the County Joining in Opinion with us, taking into our most serious Consideration the Unhappy Warring, and Dangerous Situation of this Province and of America, think it Absolutely necessary, at this time, to exercise our undoubted right of expressing our Sentiments and giving Instructions to our Representatives in Convention

The Arbitrary, Cruel and Oppressive Measures unwarrantably pursued for many years past and now at this time raging with the most Malignant Fury by the Court of London against the good People of North America are so well known and so severely felt that no Enumeration is at this time Necessary

The Americans have been Compelled by Dire necessity and for their own immediate preservation to enter into a Union by the means of a General Congress, and to Arm in arms to Repel the Hostile Troops of Great Britain Aided by Hosts of Foreign Mercenaries hired purposely to destroy them

This Union and Compact in Congress we Esteem as a most important and even sacred Nature, and that on its safety as well as of all America depends on Maintaining this Union entire and Carrying the Determinations of the Congress Religiously and Vigorously into Effect

It is with Infinite Grief and Mortification we find that Complaints have been made that this Union and Obedience to the Recommendations of Congress have not been sufficiently Observed by the Convention of this Province in the Last Instance, that there has been a Considerable falling off from the former Wisdom and Spirit that the General Congress and our Sister Colony of Virginia in Union have taken the Alarm and expressed their fears as if this Province influenced by Ministerial or other unworthy Motives, meant to Recede from and Abandon the American Union. How far the same be Just or whether your Conduct Generally or Individually may have tended to create Suspicions of such a Breach may be the Subject of a future enquiry

At present we inform you that our just Determinations are by
every means to strengthen and maintain the American Union
and the Authority of Congress in the fullest extent, and give the utmost
Demonstrations of our sincerity and firmness to our friends and to
the whole World

4 Resolved That Duties to maintain and support our Just rights and to
be the most perfect Justice to all men We think it Expedient
necessary that the fairest and clearest Accounts of the Publick
Receipts and Expences should be published Twice in each Year
then. We therefore recommend and desire that in all future
Questions in Convention the Votes may be taken individually
and not by Counties

5 The Instructions to the Deputies sent from this Province to the
General Congress have been in our Opinion highly Injurious
to the Common Cause and given great Offence to the Inhabitants
of America We therefore desire that you use your utmost
Efforts to have the same immediately rescinded — If any
Resolutions are necessary that they be the most liberal
Calculated to establish the firmest Bond of Union and Confe
deracy in America, the most determined effectual and resolute
Resistance against all Invaders and that the Determinations
of the Congress be regarded in all Affairs of a General Nature
as Conclusive and Obligatory

6 From good Information we learn that the first Days of July are
appointed by the Congress for discussing and Concluding on the
grand Point of Independance — In so momentous a Concern
We would deliver our Sentiments with the greatest Caution
Yet thro a Possibility of a Reconciliation with Great Britain
upon free Terms of Freedom, Peace, entire Security and
Indemnity in all future times — We take the liberty to
to Witness that the Affection we bear to the People of England
and Ireland and to all those Generous faithful Patriots
the Friends of Mankind who have Plead the Cause of Hu-
manity and America would induce us to Prefer a peaceful
Reconciliation with those Nations to every Earthly Acquisition — But
in the Bitterness of our Hearts we Declare that from the best
Authority we know and see and feel that the King, the Ministry

and

9

10

11

12

9 The Conduct of several members of Convention in the December Sessions in Caballing and engrossing to themselves and their particular favourites without regard to their Abilities or Recommendation of others, most of the Considerable Posts of Honour and Trust particularly in the Militia, We think we cannot Indecent and injurious, it has given great and just Offence and we expect to see a due Reformation

10 We are Convinced that great Britain Incited by disappointed Pride will make every Effort to Subdue and Destroy us We should therefore be wanting in duty to our Country Ourselves and Posterity if we neglected any Precaution to Repel their unjust Depredations, The Congress have requested a large Body of our Militia to Join with our Neighbours in forming a Camp of 10,000 Men. We have the utmost reliance on the Wisdom and Virtue of that Respectable Body and hope their requisition will be immediately Complied with. Every expedient Encouragement should be given to form the Regiments and Enable them to take the field with Effect Men Staying in such a Cause think not of the Expence but of every Means of Preservation

11 We Recommend to your Consideration the pursuit of the most effectual measures for putting the Province into the best State of Defence by Sea and Land, that safe and Commodious Harbours and Forts be provided for the Protection of Commerce and Maritime Affairs That Foundaries of Cannon and Manufactories of Small Arms be Established & Encouraged Arts and Sciences, Ship Building and useful Manufactures promoted — Emegrants of useful Trades and property induced to settle amongst us, and a Free Trade with foreign Nations set on foot by Liberal Assistance & Encouragement

12 Our Principles are immediate self Preservation We are driven by Oppression and the last Necessity to take up Arms and with the Permission of God we will never resign them till we obtain Peace Liberty and Safety Essential, Secured to our selves and Posterity

after

2 For making Effectual Provision, in the Troops and Operations which we have Recommended, for appointing Delegates to Congress and a Council of Safety of such Persons as we may safely confide in. It is our request that you move forward Immediately & endeavour to obtain a Voluntary Dissolution of this present Convention and a new one to be Elected by Ballot to meet as soon as may be in which new Convention there may be a more equal Representation and that all Men paying Taxes have a right to give their Votes for Representatives

4 Finally We recommend to your Earnest Endeavours the Promoting of True Religion the Love and fear of God, Virtue Learning Public Justice, Temperance and Fortitude We expect your best Attentions to the Observance of what we have Recommended and all other such good Regulations and Establishments as may tend to the general Benefit and Safety

5 Signed for and on behalf of the Officers and Soldiers of the 4th Battalion of Militia Inhabitants of Prince George County by your Delegates Specially Chosen and Appointed for them for that purpose this 20th day of June 1776

Test: Thomas Lee Lee
George Lee
Richard Kidder Meade
John Allen
Wm Bevan Jr
Thomas Truemor
Truemor Sharpe
David Crawford
Fielder Bowie
Stephen West

25 June 1776

Suffering under a most wanton Exercise of military Power, I am sure it is needless to do any thing further than establish that Fact as an Introduction to your Notice & benevolent Exertions for me, though I am personally a Stranger to you, however strictly intimate with your Real Character through your most [illegible] Correspondents in New England and your political Writings.

You know that Gen. Gage with Troops from Gr. Britain entered Boston with Professions of Friendship & on a Design to promote good Order in the Province. He erected Works at the Isthmus which joins the Town to the main Country. He declared himself shocked upon a Remonstrance of the County of Suffolk suggesting apprehended Danger to the Inhabitants of the capital City in Sept. 1774 & in April 1775 a foolish military Excursion to the Town of Concord brought on the present warlike Proceedings of America. In the Week after that Rupture, the Inhabitants of my native Town were called upon to deliver up their Arms on Condition of being at Liberty to depart with all their Effects, or, to tarry under the Generals Protection.

The Papers inclosed to you herewith will discover the Series of Treatment which I experienced from that Time.

Gen.l Gage left Boston Oct.r 10.th last year; At which Time I sent Copies of all my Letters & Petitions whereby I had aimed to regain Freedom by Tryal, with a Copy of Gen.l Howe's evasive Answer. I wrote also to the Lord Mayor of London to the Printer of the London Mercury & to Gen.l Gage. I suspect

The Power on M.r Wm Powel deceived me & did not deliver the Packquet to M.r Tho.s Bromfield Merch.t; or, that the latter through Timidity Suppressed the Papers.

When I was hurried from Boston Jail in last march, I left my Pocket Book with my Wife: But, I recollected the most materiall Passages of my Petition, for the Information of some Friends here; and afterwards gave them in Charge to M.r Michael Joy who sail'd from hence y.e 12.th May. This worthy young man having been the Protector of my Family after my Arrest can give every minute Description of its miseries.

Gen.l Gage threw me into Prison, and left Gen.l Howe with only the Power of a Jailor, as he pretended in October, tho' at the same time he offered to exchange me for two military Officers.

This present Commander, Gen.l Massey declares that his Hands are tied. He sent his Chaplain to tell the Prisoners that he would take upon himself to release us for an equal Number, if our Friends would discharge such a Number. He directed us to write Letters of that Purport and said he would forward them immediately. But, in two Days after, he acquainted a Person who offered a Vessel for a Flag of Truce that, if Prisoners were actually to arrive here under a Flag he should be obliged to seize them till Gen.l Howe's Orders. Such is the Duplicity with which british Heroes conduct after undertaking the Task of kidnapping free-born Citizens!

I have not obtained a Sight of Gen.l Massey or even one of his Aids de Camp. I have no Prospect of Release from Jail

but through your Sagacity & humane generous Spirit.

Hancock & Adams were the only Names excepted in the lying act of Grace of June 12th. but there is a deep Rancour against me for having publickly repeated after Judge Blackstone what the agravated Murderers have now taught me by Experience; - that "Slaves envy the Freedom of "others & take a malicious Pleasure in con- "tributing to destroy it".

I must not omit to tell you that on the 2d of February the Gen.l got Possession of a Billet which I had given that Morning to one going to Point Shirley. He thereupon ordered me to be close locked up & debarred the Use of Pen Ink & Paper. They will plead this as a Proof of my just Imprison- ment: But surely, Sir, it cannot have such a retrospective Force. I was as innocent as an unborn Infant as to the forbidden Correspondence till after I had been unjustly distressed in Prison. The promised Pro- tection of June 12th being taken from me, I slighted the Wretches & all their military Edicts; and I continue to do it most cordially.

Should you recover the Papers referred to, as sent in Oct.r & May, I am satisfied you will judge that I have maintained a manly Spirit under all my past Oppressions. And I hope you will be induced to believe that

no fresh Exertions of the scientific Barbarity of Those who hold me in Durest shall bring me to any Conduct that can be disgraceful to the Patronage which I promise myself you will afford to

Sir

Your Sincere Admirer

& Suffering Humb. Servant

James Lovell

Halifax Provost

June 25th 1776.

To

Arthur Lee Esqr

&c &c &c

Respectfully

Philadelphia, July 8th, 1776.

"Dear Sir:

For news, I refer you to your brother, who writes on that head. I enclose a copy of the Declaration of Independence, as agreed to by the House, and also as originally framed. You will judge whether it is better or worse for the critics. I shall return to Virginia after the 11th of August. I wish my successor may be certain to come before that time: in that case, I shall hope to see you, and not Wythe, in convention, that the business of government, which is of everlasting concern, may receive your aid. Adieu, and believe me to be your friend and servant."

[THOMAS JEFFERSON]

A Declaration by the Representatives of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA in General Congress assembled.

When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature & of nature's god entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with inherent and inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organising it's powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. prudence indeed will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light & transient causes, and accordingly all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. but when a long train of abuses and usurpations, begun at a distinguished period & pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, & to provide new guards for their future security. such has been the patient sufferance of these colonies; & such is now the necessity which constrains them to expunge their former systems of government. the history of the present king of Great Britain, is a history of unremitting injuries and usurpations, among which appears no solitary fact to contradict the uniform tenor of the rest, but all have in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over these states. to prove this let facts be submitted to a candid world, for the truth of which we pledge a faith yet unsullied by falsehood.

He has refused his assent to laws the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

he has forbidden his governors to pass laws of immediate & pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has neglected utterly to attend to them.

he has refused to pass other laws for the accomodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of representation in the legislature, a right inestimable to them, & formidable to tyrants only.

FAC-SIMILE OF THE JEFFERSON AUTOGRAPH DRAUGHT OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE IN THE POSSESSION OF THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.

he has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, & distant from the depository of their public records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

he has dissolved Representative houses repeatedly & continually, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

he has refused for a long time after such dissolutions to cause others to be elected whereby the legislative powers, incapable of annihilation, have returned to the people at large for their exercise, the state remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, & convulsions within.

he has endeavored to prevent the population of these states, for that purpose obstructing the laws for naturalization of foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither; & raising the conditions of new appropriations of lands.

he has suffered the administration of justice totally to cease in some of these states refusing his assent to laws for establishing judiciary powers.

he has made our judges dependant on his will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount & paiment of their salaries.

he has erected a multitude of new offices by a self-assumed power, & sent hither swarms of officers to harrass our people and eat out their substance.

he has kept among us, in times of peace, standing armies and ships of war, without the consent of our legislatures.

he has affected to render the military independant of & superior to the civil power.

he has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his assent to their acts of pretended legislation

for quartering large bodies of armed troops among us;

for protecting them by a mock-trial from punishment for any murders which they should commit on the inhabitants of these states;

for cutting off our trade with all parts of the world;

for imposing taxes on us without our consent;

for depriving us of the benefits of trial by jury;

for transporting us beyond seas to be tried for pretended offences.

for abolishing the free system of English laws in a neighboring province, establishing therein an arbitrary government, and enlarging it's boundaries so as to render it at once an example & fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these states;

for taking away our charters, abolishing our most valuable laws, and altering fundamentally the forms of our governments;

, for suspending our own legislatures & declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

he has abdicated government here, withdrawing his governors & declaring us out of his allegiance and protection, & waging war against us.

he has plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts, burnt our towns, & destroyed the lives of our people.

he is at this time transporting large armies of foreign mercenaries, to compleat the works of death, desolation & tyranny, already begun with circumstances of cruelty & perfidy unworthy the head of a civilized nation.

he has endeavored to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers the merciless Indian savages whose known rule of warfare is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes, & conditions of existence.

he has incited treasonable insurrections of our fellow citizens with the allurements of forfeiture & confiscation of our property.

he has constrained others taken captives on the high seas, to bear arms against their country, to become the executioners of their friends & brethren, or to fall themselves by their hands.

he has waged cruel war against human nature itself, violating it's most sacred rights of life & liberty in the persons of a distant people, who never offended him, captivating and carrying them into slavery in another hemisphere, or to incur miserable death in their transportation thither. this piratical warfare, the opprobrium of infidel powers, is the warfare of the Christian king of Great Britain. determined to keep open a market where MEN should be bought & sold, he has prostituted his negative for suppressing every legislative attempt to prohibit or to restrain this execrable commerce: and that this assemblage of horrors might want no fact of distinguished die, he is now exciting those very people to rise in arms among us, and to purchase that liberty of which he has deprived them, by murdering the people upon whom he also obtruded them: thus paying off former crimes committed against the liberties of one people with crimes which he urges them to commit against the lives of another.

In every stage of these oppressions we have petitioned for redress in the most humble terms; our repeated petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. a prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a people who mean to be free. future ages will scarce believe that the hardiness of one man adventured within the short compass of twelve years only to build a foundation so broad and undisguised, for tyranny over a people fostered and fixed in principles of freedom.

Nor have we been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. we have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend a jurisdiction over these our states. we have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here, no one of which could warrant so strange a pretension: that these were effected at the expence of our own blood and treasure, unassisted by the wealth or the strength of Great Britain: that in consideration of [illegible] they should have free trade with us: that no other link should subsist between us than the mere act of permitting our common king, thereby laying a foundation for perpetual league and amity with them. but that submission to their parliament was no part of our constitution, nor ever in idea, if history may be credited: and we appealed to their native justice & magnanimity, as well as to the ties of our common kindred, to disavow these usurpations, which were likely to interrupt our connection & correspondence. they too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity; and when occasions have been given them, by the regular course of their laws, of removing from their councils the disturbers of our harmony, they have, by their free election re-established them in power. at this very time too, they are permitting their chief magistrate to send over not only soldiers of our own blood but [Scotch and] foreign mercenaries to invade and destroy us. these facts have given the last stab to agonizing affection; and manly spirit bids us to renounce for ever these unfeeling brethren. we must endeavor to forget our former love for them, and to hold them as we hold the rest of mankind, enemies in war, in peace friends. we might have been a free & a great people together; but a communication of grandeur and of freedom, it seems, is below their dignity. be it so, since they will have it. the road to happiness & to glory is open to us too: we will climb it apart from them, and acquiesce in the necessity which denounces our eternal separation!

We therefore the Representatives of the United states of America in General Congress assembled, do, in the name & by authority of the good people of these states, reject & renounce all allegiance and subjection to the kings of Great Britain, & all others who may hereafter claim by, through, or under them; we utterly dissolve all political connection which may heretofore have subsisted between us and the parliament or people of Great Britain, and finally we do assert that these colonies are & of right ought to be free and independant states, that as free & independant states, they have full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, & to do all other acts and things which independant states may of right do. And for the support of this declaration we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.

[illegible]

Chantilly, 21 July, 1776.

"Dear Sir:

"I thank you much for your favor and its inclosures by this post, and I wish sincerely, as well for the honor of Congress, as for that of the States, that the manuscript had not been mangled as it is. It is wonderful, and passing pitiful, that the rage of change should be so unhappily applied. However, the Thing is in its nature so good that no Cookery can spoil the Dish for the palates of Freemen.

* * * *

"It will always make me happy to hear from you because I am sincerely your affectionate friend,

"RICHARD HENRY LEE."

My dear Sir

Philad.a July 15 1776

I must acknowledge that when I left Congress I gave you Reason to expect a Letter from me before this Time. you will not, I am very certain, attribute my omission to the Want of a most cordial Esteem for you. The Truth is, I hardly know how to write without saying something of our Canadian Affairs; and this is a Subject so thoroughly mortifying to me, that I could wish totally to forget all that has past in that Country. Let me however just mention to you that Schuyler & Gates are to command the Troops to be employ'd there; the former, while they are without, and the latter, while they are within the Bounds of Canada. — I dwelling both these Generals to have the military Accomplishments of Marlborough and Eugene, I cannot conceive that such a Disposition of them can be attended with any happy Effects, unless Harmony subsists between them. — Alas! I fear this is not the Case — Already Disputes have arisen, which they have referr'd to Congress! And though they appear to treat each other with a Politeness becoming their Rank, in my Mind, Altercations between Commanders who have Pretensions so nearly equal, I mean in Point of Command, forebode a Repetition of Misfortunes — I sincerely wish my Apprehension may prove to be groundless

General Howe, as you have heard, is arrived at New York — He has brought with him from 8 to 10,000 Troops — Lord Howe arrived the last Week, and the whole Fleet is hourly expected — The Enemy landed on Staten Island — Nothing of Importance has been done, saving that last Friday at about three in the Afternoon a 40 and a 20 Gun Ship with several Tenders, taking the Advantage of a fair & fresh Gale and flowing Tide, passed by our Forts as far as the Encampment at Kings bridge — General Mifflin who commands there in a Letter of the 5 Instant informed us he had lately mounted

mounted

and hoped to a Work to be formidable. Reinforcements are daily arriving from England, and our Troops are in high Spirits.

I am exceedingly pleased with the calm & determined Spirit, which our Countrymen in Canada has discovered in all his Letters to Congress. May Heaven guide and prosper him! The Militia of the Jerseys, Pennsylvania & Maryland are all in Motion. General Lee commands the flying Camp in the Jerseys. We have just now appointed a Committee to bring in a Plan for a Reinforcement to compleat the Number of 20000 Men to be raised in that Colony.

Our Declaration of Independency has given Vigor to the Spirits of the People. Had this Measure been taken Nine Months ago, it is my Opinion that Canada would at this time have been in our hands. But what does it avail to find fault with what is past. Let us do better for the future. We were more fortunate than we hoped in having 12 of the 13 Colonies in favor of the all important Question. The Delegates of N York were not empowered to give their Voice on either Side. Their Convention has since acceded to the Declaration & published it even before they received it from Congress. So mighty a Change in so short a Time! N Jersey have finished their Form of Government, a Copy of which I inclose. They have sent us five new Delegates, among whom are Dr Witherspoon & Judge Stockton. All of them appear to be zealously attached to the American Cause. A Convention is now meeting in this City to form a Constitution for this Colony. They are empowered by their Constituents to appoint a new Committee of Safety to act for the present & to chuse new Delegates for Congress. I am told there will be a change of others, and if so, I hope for the better.

A Plan of Confederation has been brot into Congress & I hope will be speedily digested and made ready to be laid before the several States for their Approbation. A Committee has now under Consideration the Business of foreign Alliance. It is high time for us to have Ambassadors in foreign Courts. I

Has with such dispatch as shall be most by Delay — you know upon whom our Thoughts were turned when you
with Dick —
I am greatly oblig'd to you for favouring me with the
Form of Government agreed upon by your Convention
I have not yet had time to peruse it, but dare say
will be a Feast to our little Circle — The Dower in ya
great Seal pleases me much
Pray have the goodness to my Sister — your Lady
most pressingly solicit, while you allow me to say
demands your Attendance here — I have written to
great Haste — Adieu my dear Sir, and be assured tha
I am very affectionately Your Friend
J A

D. Col. Dan & Lee. (No 130) Williamsburg July 15th 1776

Give me leave to trouble you with some of the Particulars relative to our Engagement with the Fleet, the Troops, and Banditti on the Island — On the eighteth of this Instant in the Evening I got to the Camp before Gwins Island and found that by Employing a Number of Men to work in the Night, our Battery might be opened in the Morning — On the Nineth at eight O'Clock, the Fleet lay in a Range that suited our Purpose. We instantly opened our Embrasures which to that Moment were secret to the Enemy — The Dunmore lay near and very fair, when she was saluted by our eighteen Pounders, our other Battery of five Guns was opened on them at the same Time. Their Amazement and Confusion was beyond Discription — The Dunmore waited to fire only five Guns. She slipt both her Cabels and was towed off by three Boats, both Batteries playing on her all the Time of her Retreat. She is prodigiously shattered, her Cabben tore to Peices, & several Men killed. The Shot that missed her could not fail taking Place in some of the other Vessels, the Otter William and the Fowey were so peppered that they were obliged to slip their Cabels also, and tow off. The whole Fleet were in Confusion and moved to a safer Distance. We are told all the armed Vessels and several others lost Men — The Guns of both our Batteries were then turned on their Camp, the Shot crossing other in the Center of their Camp. This set them to scam-

pering— The next Morning we collected all the Canoes that could be got in that Neighbourhood, which did not amount to more than Thirty. We then turned our Thoughts to the clearing the Haven, and by meaning that of Two six Pounders (Brass Pieces) on Travelling Carriages, made a Sloop of six Guns and a Schooner well armed with some Carriage Guns and Swivels move their Stations, they grounded, we manned Canoes and took them. This Step threw some of our Men on the Island, which being observed by some of the Enemy, who were placed as Lookouts, ran to their Camp and greatly alarmed them, by saying that the lower End of the Island was full of the damned shirt Men— This struck them with a Panick and struck set them to the trot— Before we could with our trifling Canoes land 250 Men on the Island, the vast Multitude of Boats, belonging to the Fleet (which consisted of upwards of 80 Sail) took them on Board. They left in their Battery one excellent six Pounder, and considerable Quantity of Baggage in their Camp We shall have at least £1000 worth of Cabels and Anchors and 266 Bars of Iron, Articles very useful to us— They burnt four Vessels one of them large, some took her for the Dunmore but I think they were mistaken— The Inhabitants of the Island say that Dunmore received a Reinforcement of one hundred and fifty Tories from Maryland and a considerable Number of Beef Cattle some Time before they

were

were routed, 60 Head of the Cattle fell into our Hands
- I am told since I wrote the above that after the Fleet
sailed a large Ship Taken to be the Dunmore returned to the
Potter, which lay near the Mouth of Rapehannock, the Ship
was boyed by a Number of empty Casks lashed to both
sides, and that after puting her loading on Board the Potter
sunk and totally disappeared ——

On Sunday Evening Col.o Charles Lewis
with 4 Companies of his Battalion before Gwins Island
and I at Burwells Ferry had Orders to march to Potomack
in order to afford Quiet and Protection untill Dunmore
would fix himself on some Spot — After which we
must take our Measures accordingly I am

Your most Obed.t Servt.

And.w Lewis

(Nov: 27 o.)

No 1782 270

To

The Hon.ble Richard Henry Lee

of

Chantilly

Andw Lewis

Westmoreland

(1020)

Augt 15. 1774
Andw Lewis

77

Dear Sir, Chantilly 1st July 1796 12.

I thank you much for your favor and its inclosures by this post, and I wish sincerely, as well for the honor of Congress, as for that of the State, that the Manuscript had not been mangled as it is. It is wonderful, and passing pitiful, that the age of change should be so unhappily applied - However the Thing is in its nature a good, that no Cookery can spoil the Dish for the palates of Freemen.

I congratulate you on the great triumph in South Carolina, and we have no reason to be sorry for the disgrace of our African Hero at Rivers Island - He is now disturbing us in Potomac, having attached himself to St Georges Island on the North side. But it seems the brave spirit of the Marylanders will not permit these folks to remain long where they now are. Our friend Mr Wythe proposes to me by letter that I meet him at Hanover Jany the 3d of September, and I have agreed to do it, if some pressing call tether me to Congress sooner. Can you have patience so long?

It will always make me happy to hear from you because I am very sincerely your affectionate friend

Richard Henry Lee

P. S. I will thank you for Dr Priestleys pamphlet by next post — How do you like our Government?

275

Philadelphia July. 30th. 1776

My Dear Sir.

Your Letter of the 14 Inst: followed Me to this City. and your other favour of the 21st. was delivered by yesterdays Post.

I hurried to Congress to give my little assistance to the framing a Confederacy and a plan for a foreign alliance. both of them Subjects of the utmost Importance, and which in my Judgment demand immediate Dispatch. The Confederacy has engaged our close attention for a Week. Three great Difficulties occur. Representation, The Mode of Voting; and the Claims to the South Sea. The whole might in my Opinion be settled if Candor Justice and the real Interests of America were attended to. We do not all see the Importance and Necessity of a Confederacy. We shall

remain weak, and distracted and divided
in our Councils, our Strength will be
decreased, and we shall be open to all
the arts of the insidious Court of Britain,
and no foreign Court will attend to our
Applications for Assistance, before we
are confederated. what Contract will a
foreign State make with us, or when we
cannot agree among ourselves?

Our Army at Ticonderoga consists of
6,000 of which 3,000 are in the Hospital
from the small Pox and other Camp
Diseases. our Army at N York contains
14,000, of which only 10,000 are effective.
our flying Camp in the Jerseys has
but between 2 & 4000 Troops.

No News from Gen. Washington he
writes 27th that a sail, supposed to be
part of Lord Howes fleet, arrived at
the Hook that Day.

I shall always be glad to hear
from you, and am with great Esteem

Your affectionate friend
And Obed.t Servant

Jaqu.l Clark

Free

The Honorable Richard Henry Lee Esquire

of Chantilly

Westmoreland County

Virginia

30.

Lett. pmk. 31 Oc.

Com. Dec. 4

London Augt. 3d. 1776 We the Subscribers do
hereby Certify that Mr Henry Johnson late Comm.
of the Yankee Sloop did behave in the most Genteel
& Friendly Manner to us whilst his Prisoners on b
the said Sloop As Witness our hands the day
& Date as above

Geo Ross

James Hodge

Richd. Rouse

Abstract of Monies advanced to Sundry persons by the Secret Committee on Special Contracts.

Persons	Dates	Sums Dlls
Willing, Morris, & Co	27th Sept. 1775	45,000.
P. Livingston, J. Alsop & J. Lewis	9th Oct. —	36,000
Alexander Gillon	27th Oct.	45000
Nath. Shaw	8th Nov.	21,000
John Langdon	8th Do.	15000
Th. Mumford	28th Do.	28500
Jam. Mifflin & George Clymer	30th Do.	7500
Jo. & Peter Chevalier	5th Decemb.	11,500
Esek Hopkins	11th Do.	6000
Willing Morris & Co.	14th Do.	14000
Th. Yorke	19 Do.	5350
Blair Mecklenachan	22d Do.	4550
John Brown	25 Do.	20000
Th. Greene	26 —	10000
Bayard, Jackson & Co	26 —	15000
Philip Livingston	8th Jan. 1776	20000
John Langdon	— —	10000
Deane Silas & Barnabas	11th Jan.	30000
Willing & Morris & Co.	5th Feb.	80000
Nath. Greene & Co.	6 Feb.	10000
Nicht. & John Browne	6th Do.	24000
Hodges Bayard & Co.	13th Do.	23333.30
J. Alsop, J. Lewis, P. Livingston, Deane & Robert Morris	12½	200000
Robert Morris & John Ross	1 March	90000
Th. Yorke	17th & 18th June	5400
Jos. & Adam Babcock	7th March	5000
Guinet Button	12 July	20000
Hewes & Smith	26 Aug.	20000
		20000
Total		Dlls 841,683.

Avec la lettre de Hollande du 8 octobre N° 44.

15ème Copie d'une lettre de Londres le 23 7bre 1776.

From Arthur Lee to M. Dumas:

Mon cher Monsieur.

Ayant été jusqu'ici absent de L.... il ne m'a pas été possible de répondre plutôt à vos deux dernières lettres.

D'après les plus sûres et les plus fraiches nouvelles d'Amérique, le sort est jeté actuellement, et d'un jour à l'autre on peut attendre celle d'une affaire décisive à New-York: je dis décisive quant à la destinée de cette ville et à celle du Général Howe; mais non quant à l'Amérique pour laquelle il importe fort peu que New York soit pris ou sauvé.

Tous les esprits paraissent accablés ici d'une pesante melancolie, que dans etre superstitieux on pourroit regarder comme l'avant coureur de quelque fleau. En général on paraît peu surpris de la publication de l'acte d'indépendance qui au contraire semble être une chose toute naturelle et le public n'a point l'air de se croire interessé aux prodigieuses conséquences que cet evenement doit entrainer. Le Ministère a usé de certaines manoeuvres pour soutenir le débit et le prix des Manufactures, et tant que la navigation et les Manufactures conservent l'apparence de la prospérité, la Sagesse même crieroit par les rues pour avertir le peuple du péril qui les menace, qu'ils seraient sourds à la voix, et qu'elle ne se ferait pas entendre. Mais le cours des saisons n'est pas plus irrévocablement arrêté, qu'il est certain que ces artifices du Ministère n'auront qu'un effet passager, et que leur issue sera fatale: car plus on a flatté notre espoir, plus notre frayeur est grande quand le malheur nous surprend au lieu

du bien que nous attendons. Déjà les Isles des Indes
Occidentales élèvent leurs cris, ainsi que vous l'aurez
vu par l'adresse de celle de Barbades. Le grand nom-
=bre de capturer que les américains ont faites sur le
commerce des isles a déjà produit des effets qui ne
sont que trop sensibles par la consternation de beaucoup
de nos principaux marchands. Si le Hollandois pre-
=nait l'allarme (et le moindre mouvement de la France
suffisait pour cela), nos fonds publics en recevraient
le plus terrible secousse, et il ne faut pas moins,
pour tirer de leur léthargie, un Roi qui s'abuse et
un peuple abusé.

Les portraits que vous me priés de tracer sont
tels que rarement la même époque en a-t-elle réunis
de semblables. Le Lord Sandwich est connu pour s'être
permis pendant le cours d'une longue vie tout ce
qu'on peut imaginer, en paroles et en actions,
de plus contraire à l'honnêteté et à la vertu. Avec
un talent fort médiocre et très peu d'amour du tra-
=vail, il sait conserver les dehors de l'un et de l'autre
avec des manières et des propos, qui dans un
temps aussi peu fait que celui-ci pour approfondir
passent pour être de bon aloi.

Le Lord Germaine, quoique né et élevé en Angle-
=terre, a tous les principes d'un Ecossais; Artificieux,
fier, hautain, et faux. Comme il a toujours aimé
et soutenu les Ecossais, ils sont ses Valets, Panégy-
=ristes et ses avocats; et comme c'est une Nation
infatigable dans tout ce qu'elle entreprend, elle est
parvenue à lui donner une réputation d'habileté
qu'assurément il mérite très peu. La dissimulation
et la ruse dans les choses du monde, passent trop
souvent pour sagesse réelle. C'est dans ce sens
que le Lord Germaine est réellement un homme
sage et habile. Un tel homme ne pouvait pas être
long-tems négligé dans une Cour où l'on cherche

avec des yeux de Lynx les âmes les plus basses pour les employer, et où tout se fait d'après des principes et des Conseils Ecossais.

Le Lord Suffolk se fait remarquer par son caractère sombre et dédaigneux, et ses principes arbitraires. Il avait pris parti dans l'opposition sous les Drapeaux de George Grenville, et ils étaient ceux qui criaient le plus haut tant qu'ils purent espérer d'obtenir par son moyen de l'avancement. Mais il ne fut pas plutôt mort, qu'ils firent leur marché avec la Cour, dont ils ont été depuis ce tems là les partisans les plus dévoués. Le Lord Suffolk s'est rendu surtout intéressant auprès du Roi par une attention infatigable aux petites affaires de détails de son département, et par une complaisance sans bornes.

Le Lord Rockford a sucé en naissant les principes des Torys, et il a lié sa partie avec le Lord Mansfield. Mais ses appréhensions sur l'avenir l'ont decidé à se retirer avec une bonne pension, car il est persuadé que la France ne tardera pas à frapper un coup qui mettra en danger les têtes de ceux qui conduisent les affaires comme nous le voyons.

J'ai su par B... que l'affaire pour laquelle je vous avois parlé de lui de Paris en France, ce qui est la cause pour laquelle vous ne l'avez pas vu.

Je n'imagine point ce qui vous fait craindre que les lettres ne soient interceptées. Les Ministres ont trop à songer, et sont entourés d'opposans trop connus, et qui les inquiètent trop directement, pour se donner le tems de chercher ailleurs des victimes. Il faut que leurs Succès soient bien certains et bien décisifs pour qu'ils se hasardent à attaquer les amis de l'Amerique en Europe, et à provoquer des représailles. Jean Platt d'être un des objets les plus prochains de leur inimitié, mais cela ne m'empêche point de dire que la haine des méchans est le plus glorieux et le plus désirable témoignage pour la vertu et le mérite.

Instructions to ....

Benjamin Franklin, Silas, Deane and Thomas Jefferson, Commissioners appointed by the Congress of the united States of America. ———

There is herewith delivered to you a plan of a treaty with his most Christian majesty of France approved of in Congress on the part of the united States of America

It is the wish of Congress that the treaty should be concluded, and you are hereby instructed to use every means in your power for concluding it conformable to the plan you have received.

If you shall find that to be impracticable, you are hereby authorised to relax the demands of the United States and to enlarge their offers agreeably to the following directions.

If his most Christian majesty shall not consent that the subjects, people and inhabitants of the United States shall have the privileges proposed in the second article then the united States ought not to give the subjects of his most Christian majesty the privileges proposed in the first article; but that the united States shall give to the subjects of his most Christian majesty the same privileges, liberties and immunities at least and the like favour in all things, which any foreign nation

nation the most favoured shall have; provided his most Christian Majesty shall give to the subjects people and inhabitants of the united States, the same benefits privileges and immunities, which any the most favoured foreign nation now has, or hereafter enjoys. And in case neither of these propositions of equal advantages are agreed to, then the whole of the said articles are to be rejected rather than obstruct the farther progress of the treaty.

The third article must be insisted on.

The sixth article ought to be obtained if possible; but should be waved rather than that the treaty should be interrupted by insisting upon it; his most Christian Majesty agreeing, nevertheless, to use his interest and influence to procure passes from the states mentioned in this article for the vessels of the subjects & inhabitants of the united States upon the Mediterranean.

The seventh article will probably be attended with some difficulty. If you find his most Christian Majesty determined not to agree to it, you are impowered to add to it as follows. That the united States will never be subject or acknowledge allegiance or obedience to the king or crown or parliament of Great Britain, nor grant to that nation any

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exclusive trade or any advantages or privileges in trade more than to his most christian majesty; neither shall any treaty for terminating the present war between the king of Great Britain & the united States or any war which may be declared by the king of great Britain against his most Christian majesty in consequence of this treaty take effect until the expiration of six calendar months after the negotiation for that purpose shall have been duly notified, in the former instance, by the United States to his most Christian majesty, and in the other instance by his most Christian majesty to the united states, to the end that both these parties may be included in the peace, if they think proper.

The eleventh and twelfth articles are to be waved if you find that the treaty will be interrupted by insisting on them.

You will press the thirteenth article, but let not the fate of the treaty depend upon obtaining it.

If his most Christian Majesty should be unwilling to agree to the fifteenth and twenty fifth articles you are directed to consent that the goods and effects of enemies on board the ships and vessels

of

of either party shall be liable to seizure & confiscation

The twenty fourth article is not to be insisted on.

You will solicit the court of France for an immediate supply of twenty or thirty thousand muskets and bayonets and a large supply of ammunition and brass field pieces to be sent under convoy of France. The united states engage for the payment of the arms, artillery and ammunition and to indemnify France for the expence of the convoy.

Engage a few good engineers in the service of the united states.

It is highly probable that France means not to let the united states sink in the present contest; but as the difficulty of obtaining true accounts of our condition may cause an opinion to be entertained, that we are able to support the war on our own strength and resources, longer than in fact we can do, it will be proper for you to press for the immediate and explicit declaration of France in our favour upon a sugestion that a reunion with Great Britain may be the consequence of a delay.

Should Spain be disinclined to our cause from an apprehension of danger to her dominions

in

in South America, you are impowered to give the strongest assurances that that crown will receive no molestation from the united States in the possession of those Territories

You will transmit to us the most speedy and full intelligence of your progress in this business and of any other European transactions that it may import us to know.

You are desired to get the best and earliest information that you possibly can of any negotiations that the court of London may be carrying on for obtaining foreign mercinaries to be sent against these States, the next campaign; and if any such design is in agitation you will endeavour to prevail with the court of France to exert its influence in the most effectual manner to prevent the execution of such designs

You are desired to obtain as early as possible a public acknowledgment of the independency of these States on the crown and parliament of great Britain by the court of France.

In conducting this important business the Congress have the greatest confidence in your address, abilities, vigilance and attachment to the

interest

6)

interests of the united states and with you every
success.

By order of Congress
John Hancock Presidt

Dear Sir, Philadelphia 27th Septr 1778

I should have written to you before now if I had not been uncertain about sending you at home, as the distance and great uncertainty of meeting of our Assembly approaching. All the material events that have happened since you left us are to be found related pretty faithfully in the public papers which I suppose are regularly conveyed to you.

The plan of foreign treaty is just finished and yourself, with Doctor Franklin & Mr. Deane now in France, are the Trustees to execute this all important business. The great obstacles which have hitherto, necessarily for the preservation of the safety of America, thrown capitally in your power directed the Congress in their choice; and tho ambition may have had no influence in this case, yet that distinguished love for your country that has marked your life, will determine you here. In my judgement, the most eminent service that the greatest of her sons can do America, will not more essentially serve her and honor themselves, than a successful negotiation with France. On this country, every thing depends upon it, and if we may form a judgement of what is at a distance, the dispositions of that Court are friendly in a high degree, and want only to be properly acted upon. To be wrought into first attachment and essential good. We find ourselves greatly endangered by the Armament at present here, but what will be our situation the

next

next campaign when the present force shall be increased
by the addition of 20 or 30 thousand Russians with a
body of British and Irish troops? I fear the power
America will fail in the mighty struggle & And
the barbarous hand of despotism will extinguish
and virtue from that once native land, substituting in
stead slavery, vice, ignorance, and ruin. Already the
foes of human kind have opened their Courts of Justice
(as they call them) on long Islands and the first fruits
of their tender mercies, the conviction & condemnation
condemnation of Thos Paine to perpetual imprisonment
The idea of Congress is that you will sail
should go on different ships. The Declaration of Congress
will sail from hence and if it is agreeable to you
three Armed Vessels will be ready to receive you
in Virginia when you arrive.

I am with the greatest esteem, dear Sir
your affectionate friend and obedient servant

Richd Henry Lee

The Delegates of the united States of New-hampshire, Massachusetts bay, Rhode-island, Connecticut, New-york, New-jersey, Pensylvania, Delaware, Maryland Virginia, North-carolina, South-carolina and Georgia to all who shall see these presents greeting.

Whereas a trade upon equal terms between the subjects of his most Christian Majesty the king of France and the people of these states will be beneficial to both nations. Know ye therefore that we confiding in the prudence and integrity of Benjamin Franklin one of the delegates in Congress from the state of Pensylvania and president of the Convention of the said states, Silas Deane late a delegate from the state of Connecticut now in France, and Thomas Jefferson a delegate from the state of Virginia have appointed and deputed and by these presents do appoint and depute them the said Benjamin Franklin, Silas Deane and Thomas Jefferson our Commissioners, giving and granting to them the said Benjamin Franklin, Silas Deane, Thomas Jefferson or to any two of them and in case of the death, absence or disability of any two, any one of them full power to communicate, treat, agree and conclude with his most Christian Majesty the king of France or with such person or persons as shall by him be for that purpose authorised of and upon a true and sincere friendship and a firm inviolable and universal peace for the defence protection and safety of the navigation and mutual commerce of the subjects of his most Christian Majesty and the people of the united States and to do all other things which may conduce to the desireable ends promising in good faith to ratify whatsoever our said commissioners shall transact in the premisses.

Done in Congress at Philadelphia the thirtieth day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy six. In testimony whereof the president by order of the said Congress hath hereunto subscribed his name and affixed his seal.

Attest
Chas Thomson secry

John Hancock Presidt

Dear Sir, Philadelphia October 15th 1778

Mr Morris has communicated to me the substance of your letter to him down to the 23rd ulto when you was just setting out for Paris. We hope your reception there has been equal to your expectation and our wishes, indeed we have no reason to doubt it, considering the countenance we have met with amongst the [illegible] in Europe. It would be very agreeable and useful to us from you just now more to form more certain of the designs of the French Court respecting us and our contest, especially as we learn by various ways they are fitting out a considerable squadron at Brest and Toulon what a noble stroke they might now strike at New York twenty sail of the line would take the whole fleet there consisting of between 4 & 500 sail of all rates, transports, & store ships and prizes, was that piece of bespeak one effected by a French fleet we would engage to give them a very good account of [illegible] in short time. but alas we fear the Court of France will let slip the glorious opportunity and go to war by halves as we have done. We say go to war because we are of opinion they must take part in the war, sooner or later and the longer they are about it the more terms will they come in upon. We doubt not you will obtain from England a regular account of the proceedings of D. Howe and his Brother and we suppose the General [illegible] would [illegible] into the world with an [illegible] beyond their instructions or at least, the conduct of our people and their present situation will be misrepresented in a manner worse than the reality. We shall therefore state these things to you as they really are. The fleet under D. Howe you know is vastly superiour to any thing we have in these Bays way; consequently when ever ships can move they must

command

command, therefore it was long foreseen that we could not hold either Long Island or New York. However they were fortifications were chiefly built with Axes and Spades the time and trouble in raising them was not misspent, for it must have been owing to those works that they remained several weeks at Staten Island without making any attempt. The first they did make was on Long Island when they landed 20,000 Men or upwards. at this time we had our Army consisting of not more than 20,000 effective men Stationed at Kings bridge, New York and on Long Island. 6 to 7000 was the whole of our force on the latter and about 3000. of them commanded by Gen Sullivan & Lo Stirling turned out of the Lines took possession of some hights and intended to annoy the Enemy in their approaches. They however out Generall'd us, and got a body of 5000 Men between our people and the Lines, so that we were surrounded and of course came off second best, but the purchased the Victory dear and many such would be their ruin. Sullivan, Lo Stirling and many other officers fell into their hands, there with privates amounted to from 800 to 1000 Men in killed, wounded & taken Prisoners. They lost a greater Number in killed and Wounded but we took but few prisoners as you may suppose. Gen Howe then laid a Trap in which he fully expected to have caught every man we had on that Island, but Genl Washington saw and frustrated his design by an unexpected and well conducted retreat across the Sound. This retreat is Spoke of on both Sides as a Master Stroke.

The Enemy immediately Marched up a large Body of Men opposite to Hell Gate. Our people threw up entrenchments on York Island to oppose their landing, but Shame to say it. on the day of Fryal two Brigades behaved infamously and could not be stopped by the intreaty or threats of the Generals who came up in the Midst of their flight.

It had been previously determined to abandon New York and

and most of our Cannon and Military Stores were Removed from
there in time. The Enemy took possession of the City and encamped
on the plains of Harlem. Our Side occupy the Heights of Harlem
Kings bridge and Mount Washington over they have made Lines
as Strong as can be. In this Situation they had a Skirmish
between about 1000 to 1200 Men on each Side in which we
gained greatly the advantage, beat them off the Field and
took three Field pieces from them having Killed and Wounded
a Considerable Number of their Men. Since then the City
of New York has been on Fire and it's said one fifth or one sixth
of it is reduced to Ashes. The Enemy charged some Straglers
of our people that happened to be in New York with having
set the City on Fire designedly and took that occasion as we
are told to exercise some inhuman Cruelty on those poor Wretches
that were in their power. They will no doubt endeavour to
throw the odium of such a Measure on us, but in this they
will fail. for Genl Washington previous to the evacuation of
that City whilst it was in his power to do as he pleased
with it, desired to know the Sense of Congress respecting
the destruction of the City as many officers had given it
as their opinion it would be an admirable measure. but
Congress Resolved that it should be evacuated and left unhurt
as they had no doubt of being able to take it Back at
a future day. This will convince all the World we had no
desire to burn Towns or destroy Cities but that we left
such meritorious works to grace the History of our Enemies
Upon the whole our Army near New York are not sufficiently
Strong to cope with Genl Howe in the open Field so they have
therefore entrenched themselves and act on the defensive —
they want better Arms, better Tents and more Cloathing
than they now have, or is in our power at this time to
supply them with, consequently we cannot recruit or
encrease that Army under their discouragements Men cannot
chearfully enter a Service where they have the prospect of
facing a powerfull Enemy and encountering the inclemencys
of

of a hard Cold Winter, without covering. at the same time
there are discouraging circumstances but we must encounter
them with double diligence and we still have hopes to procure
Cloathing partly by importation partly by Capture and chiefly
by purchasing all that can be found on the Continent.
If Peace Means to be grind on us South as well they
Should Send us Succours in good Blankets, Blanket Coats
Cutlings and proper Stuff for Suits also in ammunition — We
not like the Indians wait until we are out and then
Send assistance. We are willing to pay for them, and
Shall be able soon as we can Safely export our Tobacco &
other valuables produce.

Our Northern Army is Strong well entrenched on
an Advantageous Post at Tyconderoga which can only be taken
from them by Storm as it cannot be approached in a regular
manner on account of the Situation. We are also formidable
on the Lake, our Galleys, Boats Gondolas under command of
your friend Arnold, and that Army is better provided than
the other so that we do not seem to apprehend any danger in that quarter
at present. The Southern States are for the present in peace
and quietness except some insurrections from the Indians
who were instigated thereto by Mr Stewart the Superintendant
and other Agents from our Enemies, however they have not any
cause to rejoice in their machinations as yet. for the Cherokees
and Virginians have attacked and beat them several times,
destroyed several of their towns & Corn Fields and made
them repent dearly what they have done, So that we have
little to apprehend on account of Indians.

The Only Source of uneasiness amongst us arises
from the Number of Tories we find in every State. they
are more Numerous than formerly & Speak more openly
but Tories are now of various kinds and various principles,
Some are so from real attachment to Britain Some
from

from interested Views, many very many from fear of the British force, some because they are dissatisfied with the General Measures of Congress, most because they disapprove of the Men in power & the measures in their respective States, but these different passions, views and expectations are so combined in their Consequences that the parties affected by them, either withhold their assistance or oppose our operations and if America falls it will be owing to such divisions more than the force of our Enemies. However there is much to be done before America can be lost and if France will but join us in time there is no danger but America will soon be established an independant Empire and France drawing from her the principal part of those sources of Wealth & power that formerly flowed into Great Britain will immediately become the greatest power in Europe. We have given you as just a Picture of our present Situation as we can draw in the Compass of a Letter, in Order that you may be well informed, but you will only impart such circumstances as you may think prudent.

Our Frigates are fine Vessels but we met with dgreatly inferiour Guns and Metal. our people are but Young in Casting the former, and we want Coals to make the latter, however these difficulties we shall surmount and are bent on building some Line of Battle Ships immediately. the success in privateering and encouragement given by the Merchants will inevitably bring Seamen amongst us, this with the measures that will be adopted to encourage the breeding of Seamen amongst ourselves, will in a few Years make us respectable on the Ocean. surely France cannot be so blind to her own Interest as to neglect this glorious opportunity of destroying the power and humbling the pride of her Natural and our declared enemy.

We make no doubt you have been made acquainted with

the

the Negotiations of Messrs Swartwout and Company, that you
we conclude that you will be at no loss to obtain the Supplies
of Goods wanted for the particular department submitted to your
we know that the greatest part of those Remittances that were
intended you have been intercepted by the means or other
, It is unfortunate and much to be regretted that those Gentlemen
have had their Estate, but we hope you have obtained
the Goods on Credit, and you may depend that Remittances
will be continued, until all your engagements and Discharges
Cloathing and such are so much wanted for our Army
that we intreat you to apply immediately to the Court of
France for a Loan of money sufficient to dispatch immediately
any considerable quantities of Woollen Cloth for Coats
Cloths, Coatings, Stockings, and such other comfortable wearing
for our Army as you can easily judge will be proper
You will get these Goods sent out direct in Vessels
bound to their Islands, where we can send for them. but
if you could prevail on the Court of France to send out
Men of War with them it would be most acceptable
Whatever engagements you make for payment of the
Cost of such Cloathing and Necessaries the Congress will
order sufficient Remittances to fulfill the same but as
in our circumstances it requires time to accomplish them
You Observe the Secret Committee have given orders to
Mr. Thomas Morris to procure Sundry Articles, and dispatch
them immediately, and if you succeed in the negotiation
of a loan from the Court for this purpose you may
employ him or act in Conjunction with him, to procure
and dispatch those Articles ordered by them and such
others as you shall judge necessary and the Remittances
to be made him will serve to refund the Loan
Should the Court decline this matter perhaps Mr.

Parmure

Farmers General may be induced to advance the Money or
Make their Credit, for the sake of securing the Tobacco the Secret
Committee will Remit to Europe, Their things are thrown out
as hints and shall only further observe that you cannot
render your injured Country more Spirited Service at this
time than by procuring these Supplies immediately.

We are told our vigilant enemies have demanded of the
Courts of France, Spain, and Portugal to deliver up the
American Ships in their Ports and to forbid their having
any further intercourse with them, that the Court of
Portugal has complyed so far as to order our Ships away
in ten Days Notice. That France & Spain gave evasive
answers. This is private uncertain intelligence, but we
think you will do well, to intimate to the Ministers
of those Nations, that first impressions are lasting, that
the time has been when they stood much in need of
American Supplies, that such time may come again,
that altho we are stiled Rebels by Britain, yet our
Friendship may hereafter be of the utmost importance to
those powers particularly that possess American Colonies, and
that injuries now done us will not be easilly effaced.
Such hints and arguments you'll offer as the Suggestions
of your own mind and endeavour to influence them
by Interest or fear from taking any part against us.
on the contrary as it is evidently their Interest to encourage
our Commerce, so we hope you'll be able to influence
them by One Means or other to protect and Licence
it in the utmost extent. We shall not take
up more of your time at present but remain

Sir Your very hble Servants

B Franklin

Robt Morris

To Silas Deane Esqr

M. William Lodge [1025] October 3. 1776

Sir

We deliver you herewith Copies of the letters and Credentials you had from us when you sailed on your late unfortunate Voyage, the originals whereof we understand you destroyed on being taken by the Orpheus, Man of War. We have since that time taken other measures for procuring Arms & Ammunition which probably may have succeeded, therefore we request you will lay those Copies & this Letter before Silas Deane Esq.r at Paris, and follow such advice or directions as he may give you respecting Arms and Ammunition, but with respect to the Cutters, we approve much of that Plan, and wish it to be executed, and even enlarged. We therefore propose that you should consult with M.r Deane and M.r Thomas Morris on this subject, and if you find it will be in your power to procure Seamen and obtain Liberty to arm and fit out Vessels in France, Spain, or Holland, that you should if possible buy a Frigate of 20 to 40 Guns, have her completely fitted, armed & Manned, putting in a Gentleman of unexceptionable good character, being also an able Seamen to command her, for which purpose we give you herewith a blank Commission to be filled up with his and the Ships' name which may be the Surprize. The Captain and you may appoint the other Officers necessary for this Ship, giving to each a certificate shewing his station. When this Ship is completed you must give orders to the Captain signed by M.r Deane to cruize in the Channel against the Enemies of the United States of America, making Prizes of all such British property as he can meet with. He may send his Prizes into such Ports in France as may be most convenient, and you will there demand protection for them, or rather let M.r Deane do this, and also liberty to make sale of such Goods as he, M.r Morris & yourself may think best to sell there — direct the Captain to take out any dry Goods he finds on board his Prizes into his own Ship, and when by this means he has got a considerable quantity on board, let him come away for this Coast, and get into the first place of safety he can in the United States of America. The Captain must, before he goes, give Bond duly to observe all the rules and regulations of Congress, and herewith we deliver you a blank Bond with a Book of those rules and a list of the Continental Agents. Any Prize that he sends into France you must send forward from thence to some of these States, unless M.r Deane, M.r Morris and yourself agree it is more for the Public good to sell in France, and if you sell them there apply the neat Proceeds to pay the debts you contract in this business. Besides this Ship, we approve also of the two Cutters as mentioned in our former letters you may arm, fit, and Man them, and dispatch them hither, soon as possible, either with

with Arms, Ammunition, or such other Goods as Mr. Deane and Mr. Morris may recommend or provide. We deliver you Commissions &c. for three Vessels also, and recommend you to be very attentive to the choice of Captains. They should all be good Seamen, Men of grave character, and Principles; strongly attached to this Country and its cause, and prefer Americans thus deserving, to any other Country. If such Americans are not to be found, seek for good Men of other Countries that have interest here, or have connections amongst us. We know that there are many such in Europe that would be glad of the employ. The Ship must make but a short Cruize in the Channel, and a short one will do the business, for she will daily meet Prizes, but if she is long there they will have Men of War in quest of her. We hope you'll meet with some fine, fast sailing Ship for this purpose, and be able to purchase and fit her on reasonable terms. We shall desire Mr. Deane and Mr. Morris to join you in the necessary applications to those you deal with, of being faithfully reimbursed; and we again repeat that we shall make remittances in the produce of this Country for that purpose. We will also make you a proper compensation for your trouble and services hereafter, when they can be better ascertained, therefore wishing you success, we remain, Sir, Your humble Servants

P. S.

It is absolutely necessary that you observe the utmost secrecy in all this business, and make use of every Cloak or cover you can think of to cover the real design.

Extract of a letter from John Ross dated Passy 7th October 1777

"I got to Paris a few days since, and as Dispatches are to be sent off this Evening by the Commissioners the chief intent of this serves to inform you that by their assistance in part I have been enabled to complete the two Orders transmitted to me by the Committee of Congress of the Linnens and Woolens, they have been pleased to furnish me Bills on their Banker to the amount of 450,000 Livres to assist me in making good my engagements so far, and forward the execution of the business, promising to refund this Money to them so soon as funds reached me on account of the Public, which you may depend shall be faithfully performed when am in Cash from such funds as may come to my hands to pay off my engagements in Europe in consequence of said Orders."

Secret Committee
to
Wm. Hodge
[illegible] 1776

Letters to Hodge
from S. Committee
concerning the Cutters he was
to send to America — with Hodges
Letters & account and instructions
from Carmichael (Deans Agent)
to Capt. Cunningham & Capt.
Cunninghames Narrative — Comp.
them with Commissioners — Frank
lin & Deane & Let 7th Oct. 1777
Character of Beaumerchais
by Mons. Montandevine —

(No 121) Dieppe 15 Oct. 76

We have just heard of the proceedings on long Island the latter end of Aug.t — which is indeed unfortunate, as it will in all probability lead to other events still more unfortunate, because they will inevitably tend, may indeed will certainly occasion a continuance of the War — Nothing now, in my opinion, can possibly prevent it, but the interferance of foreign powers who have a strong inclination to it, but still there are some material obstacles in the way; however this Winter or next Spring will probably produce some great events. Respecting this, you must receive from a quarter that you have a right to expect it, much better information than any I can give. The American question, seems at this moment to be entirely forgot by all parties in England, for neither in Conversation or in the publick papers, in the Declaration of Independance, mentiond as a matter of the least importance; indeed it has not been so much talked of as the capture of one West India Ship.

The attention of every one is fix'd on the operations of the Army; on its success the Ministry build their hopes of continuance in Office & on its discomfiture the opposition rely, for getting into power. In truth the interest of England seems to be totally out of the question on both sides, & the people at large who are ever easy while affairs are successful, will be perfectly quiet untill a series of ill fortune rouses their resentment: added to this, two successive crops, the most abundant that have been known for 20 Years, make bread & most provisions cheaper than they have been, while Manufactures increase in price & trade flourishes amazingly; for the American War, creates an amazing fund for Commerce. Think, what 7 or 8 Millions will effect, laid out in the various manufactures & implements for the Army; with the necessary provisions & transports &c — This immense sum too, all passing thro' the hands of Government, keeps the principal Agents, & thro' them every intermediate person down to the lowest, quite easy. You will readily perceive that this system is all a fiction, because in the first instance, there is no solidity, viz: Money, for these millions are all navy & victualling Bills

&c, & have not one shilling fix'd by Parliament for the redemption of them.

While the buble lasts, it will however, carry with it all the weight of a reality, but when it bursts, the crush will be dreadful indeed & like a powerful torrent will overwhelm the nation with irreperable ruin. This event it is in the breast of France to produce in one day. A stroke from her wd do the business almost instantaneously, & she is sufficiently prepared to give it, if she pleases. It has been said that the Congress has representatives at several of the different Courts in Europe, but others again say that they have only one regular representative in F——ce, & even he, has not had any advice from his constituents since June. It is certainly presumptious for any Individual to attempt to unsure ~~any~~ the proceedings of so wise a body that have hitherto conducted themselves with such admirable Judgment, & indeed to the utter astonishment of every person; yet one cannot help thinking it wd have been prudent to have had the Declaration of Independance authoritatively proclaimed to every Court in Europe long before this. The terms ~~indeed~~ in which it is couched, as we have seen it, might not answer for every climate, but it wd have been easy to convey the essence of the thing, in words not altogether inadmissable, so as to answer the purpose. You see clearly that you must have mercantile, as well as other Agents in various places, as the prospect of starving is by no means agreeable, can't you fix upon some employment for a certain friend of yours, that is equal to his station in life & his Capacity such as it is. You know both perfectly well, as also his disposition, therefore can judge what is fit for him as well as he can for himself. Show this to Houdoun, consult with him upon it, as I am sure he will cordially assist if any thing can be done. Remember that all countries are alike to a Traveller, if he has but health & Independance.

It is our prudent, to try all powder as well as Arms before they are relyed on for use, —— a great quantity of both these have been in the last 12 Mos exported from G. B. by permission to F——ce & other places, such as is carryed to the coast of Africa & is totally unfit for any other purpose, than to scare an African with; such as these I am told, is chiefly what has been carried from F—— to A——; try therefore before you trust. Since the last advice from Long Island

I have not seen a Military Man, or one acquainted with the situation of the Country, but it appears to me that the loss was chiefly owing to the want of proper Officers, Artillery & perhaps Ammunition, tho' indeed it does not seem by the Account as if the Men, fought at all, or else there must have been a greater loss on the side of the Victors. Should a sound footing once be had of the command got of Hudsons River, is there not some reason to suppose that the Army will be kept recruited to it's present number, if not increased by Tories, besides being supplied with Provisions. The fate of things hangs on a critical ballance, & I do not know how it may turn but from the bottom of my heart I wish there was a happy end of the Warfare. Providence will no doubt protect you as your cause is just.

Farewell & believe me ever Yours &c.

Pray let me hear from you when you have an opty.

Wm Lee Esq.
Oct. 1776

W Lee

No. XX

No. 232



(No 232) W. Lee
R. H. Lee
Oct. 15-16 76.

copy entire

Nous Soussignés Jean Joseph De Mourlon et Rodrigue — Hortalez et Comp.ie en presence de Mr. Silas Deane agréant pour les Colonies unies l'arrangement Subsistant Sommes Convenus de ce qui Suit, Savoir que moi De Mourlon je m'engage de fournir pour le Compte des dites colonies unies de l'Amerique Septentrionale le nombre de vaisseaux armés en Guerre et marchands et de tel port de Sept Cent Tonneaux en sus Suffisans pour bien porter à Sept cent barres en l'amerique Septentrionale appartenant aux dites Colonies unies, toutes les munitions et fournitures dont Selon en mes mains arrêté et Signé de nous et Evalué au poids et encombrement d'environ les Sus dits 1600 tonneaux qui sont les Soixante centiemes des Sus dits quatre mille, et ce au prix de 200. le tonneau, plus de tenir les dits vaisseaux à la Disposition de Mess.rs Dits Hortalez & Cie et Sous voile — prets à partir du Havre de Grace et de Marseille Savoir. Le Vaisseau qui doit transporter les Canons Soixante au — Sus dit etat, et partir du Havre ainsi que celui portant ce — Canons dans tout le Cours de Novembre prochain, et le S — autres dans tout le Cours de Decembre prochain a la condition que moitié du Payement du Sus dit prix a raison de Deux cent Livres le tonneau tant pour aller en amerique que pour — revenir en France, les dits vaisseaux également chargés pour le Compte des dites colonies unies ou de mes dits Sieurs Hortalez & Cie — Repondans pour elles, me sera fait, remboursé et Soldé en argent, ou Lettres de change ou autres effets Bons et — Commerçables, et l'autre moitié en engagement de mes dits Sieurs Hortalez & Cie de me fournir a mesure de leur possibilité

des Susdits navires, pareilles sommes en argent aux mêmes effets que
dessus, aux conditions encore qu'il ne sera payé pour le passage de
chaque matelot étranger à l'equipage les sommes de Cinq cens
Livres tournois, celle de Deux cent cinquante pour chaque Soldat
ou Domestique, et celle de Cent cinquante pour chaque matelot
passager. Il est expressement arrêté entre nous que tous les
risques de la mer, de la poursuite, de l'echouement ou même de
la prise des dits Vaisseaux sont absolument pour le Compte des
Cargaisons des Colonies unies, et ne seront payés sur l'estimation qui
sera faite de chacun de ces navires d'après les pieces justificatives
du prix d'achapts que j'en ai soumis à remettre à mes dits Sieurs
Horlates et Comp.e avant le Depart desdits Vaisseaux d'avec les
ports de France desquels ils seront partis. enfin il est convenu que si
les américains retiennent ces navires ou partie d'eux plus de
deux mois dans leurs ports sans les charger de leur retour
pour la France, tous les frais de Sejour, Gages et appointemens
de l'equipage de ces vaisseaux dans leurs ports jusqu'à
celui de leur Depart a deux mois près seront à leur charge
et payés par eux ou par ceux des dits Sieurs Horlates & Comp.e qui en
répondront.

& nous R. Horlates & Ce en notre propre et privé nom en
répondant pour le Congrès des Colonies unies aux clauses et conditions
ci dessus et nous engageons à les remplir fidellement toutes celles
qui nous regardent. en foy de quoi nous avons signé cet ecrit
fait double entre nous.

a Paris le 15 8bre 1776 Signé.

Rodrigue Horlates & Comp.e &.

Silas Deane, agent des treize Colonies
unies de l'Amerique &. —

Montieu

Instructions to Benjamin Franklin, Silas Deane and Arthur Lee, Commissioners appointed by the Congress of the United States of America.

You are with this delivered to you a Plan of a Treaty with his most Christian Majesty of France, approved by the Congress on the part of the United States of America.

It is the wish of Congress that the Treaty should be concluded, and you are hereby instructed to use every means in your Power for concluding it conformable to the plan you have received.

If you should find that to unpracticable, you are hereby authorized to relax the demands of the United States, and to enlarge their Offers agreeable to the following Directions.

If his most Christian Majesty shall not consent that the subjects, people and Inhabitants of the United States, shall have the Privileges proposed in the second Article, that the United States ought not to give the subjects of his most Christian Majesty the Privileges proposed in the fourth Article; but that the United States shall agree to the subjects of his most Christian Majesty the same Privileges, Liberties & Immunities at least & the like favour in all things which

which any Foreign Nation the most favoured shall have; provided his most Christian Majesty shall give to the Subjects People and Inhabitants of the United States, the same benefits Privileges and immunities which any the most favoured Foreign Nation now has, or may enjoy. And in case neither of those Propositions, equal advantages are agreed to, then the whole of the said Articles are to be rejected rather than obstruct the further Progress of the Treaty.

The third Article must be inadmissible.

The fifth Article ought to be obtained if possible; but should be waived rather than the Treaty should be interrupted by insisting upon it; his most Christian Majesty agreeing never the less, to use his Interest and Influence to procure Peace from the States mentioned in this Article for the Vessels of the Subjects and Inhabitants of the United States upon the Mediterranean.

The seventh Article will probably be attended with some Difficulty. If you find his most Christian Majesty determined not to agree to it, you are impowered to add to it as follows. That the United States will never be subject or acknowledge allegiance or

obedience

4)

obedience to the Treaty between the Parliament of Great Britain, and yours to that Nation, as exclusive Trade, Consuls, Privileges, &c.

Should more than these be demanded by his Majesty, neither shall any Treaty for recommencing the present War between the King of Great Britain and the United States, or any thing which may be declared by the King of Great Britain against his most Christian Majesty in consequence of this Treaty take Effect, till the expiration of six Calendar Months after the Negotiations for that purpose shall have been duly notified, in the former instance, by the United States to his most Christian Majesty, and in the other instance by his most Christian Majesty to the United States, to the end that both these Parties may be included in the Peace, if they think proper.

The eleventh and twelfth Articles are to be mutual, if you find that the Treaty will be interrupted by insisting on them.

You will press the thirteenth Article but not the fate of the Treaty depend upon obtaining it.

If his most Christian Majesty should be unwilling to agree to the fifteenth and twenty fifth Articles you are directed to consent that the Goods and effects of Enemies on board

the

4)

the Ships and Vessels of either Party shall be liable to be
detained or confiscated.

The twenty fourth Article is not to be insisted
on.

You will solicit the Court of France for an
immediate supply of twenty or thirty thousand
Muskets and Bayonets, and a large
supply of Ammunition and Brass field
Pieces to be sent under convoy of a French Fleet.
The United States engage for the Payment
of the Arms, Artillery & Ammunition and
to indemnify France for the Expence of the
convoy.

Engage a few good Engineers in
the Service of the United States.

It is highly probable that France
may not be let the United States sink
in the present Contest; but as the Difficulty
of obtaining true accounts of our Condition
may cause an Opinion to be entertained,
that we are able to support the War on
our present Strength and resources, longer
than in fact we can do, it will be proper
for you to press for the immediate and
explicit declaration of France in our
Favour, upon a Suggestion that a re-
union with Great Britain may be
the consequence of a Delay.

Should

Should Spain be determined by our Councils from an Apprehension of Danger to her Dominions in South America, you are empowered to give the strongest Assurances, that that Crown will receive no molestation from the United States in the Possession of those Territories.

You will transmit with the utmost speedy and full intelligence of your Progress in this Business and of any other European Transactions that may be important to know.

You are desired to get the best and earliest information that you possibly can of any negotiations that the Court of London may be carrying on for obtaining foreign Mercenaries to be sent against these States the next Campaign; and if any such designs or negotiations you will endeavour to prevail with the Court of France to exert its influence in the most effectual manner to prevent the execution of such Designs.

You are desired to obtain as early as possible a publick acknowledgement of the Independency of these States on the Crown and Parliament of Great Britain by the Court of France.

In conducting these important Business the Congress have the greatest confidence in your address, Abilities, Vigilance & Attachment to the interests

6)

interest of the United States and with whom they
shall treat.

By order of Congress
John Hancock President

(Copy)

In Congress Sept. 21. 1776

Resolved That the Day Congress proceed to the appointment of Commissioners to the Court of France, and the Ballot being taken Mr Franklin, Mr Deane and Mr Lee were elected.

Sept. 21.

Resolved that the Commissioners plenipotentiary in such Court and manner at the Court of France as they may find suitable and necessary to support the Dignity of their Publick Character, keeping an account of their Expences, which shall be reimbursed by the Congress of the United States of America.

That besides the actual Expences of the Commissioners, a handsome allowance be made to each of them as a compensation for their Time, Trouble, risque and services.

That the secretary of the Embassy be allowed a salary of one thousand pounds Sterling per annum, with the expences of

his

his Passage outward Home. ——— (7

That the secret Committee be directed to export Produce or remit Bills to the Value of £10,000 Sterling subject to the Order of the said Commissioners for their present Support, and respecting Remittances to be effected, in order that they may know on what further Remittances they may rely for this purpose. —

Extract from the Minutes

Chas Thomson Sec.

In Congress October 16. 1776.

Additional Instructions to Benjamin Franklin, Silas Deane, and Arthur Lee, Commissioners from the United States of America to the King of France. ——

Whilst you are negotiating with, you are charged with the Court of France, you will have opportunities of conversing frequently with the Ministers and agents of other European Princes & States residing there. You shall endeavour when you find

occasion

(1)

[illegible] to secure the Independency and Security of the
said United States, and to establish Peace and Amity
between the said United States &
them, on such Terms as may be found to be consistent
with the Treaty you are instructed to make with
His Most Christian Majesty; that they
do not take or receive a Footing in any
Part, which may hereafter be in contiguity
thereto, nor that they be in any Manner subject, exemptions,
privileges, protection, defence & advantages
of the contracting Parties, be equal
and reciprocal.

If that cannot be effected, you shall do the
utmost of your power, prevent their taking
part with the Court of Britain in the War which
his Britannick Majesty prosecutes against, or
on entering into offensive Alliances with that King,
and shall not present remonstrances against
the same, desiring the interposition, mediation
and good offices, on our behalf of his most Christian
Majesty the King of France and of any other
Princes or States whose dispositions are not
hostile towards us.

In case overtures be made
to you by the Ministers or agents of any
European

Congress Propose a Plan for Commercial
Treaties between them and any one may con-
clude such treaties accordingly.

By order of Congress
John Hancock Pres.

In Congress Oct. 22. 1776. —

Resolved, That the Commissioners going to
the Court of France be directed to procure from
that Court at the Expence of these United States
either by purchase or loan, eight Ships of the line
Ships of 74 & 64 Guns well manned, and fitted
in every respect for Service; That as these
Ships may be useful in proportion to the
quickness with which they reach North-
America, the Commissioners be directed to
expedite this Negotiation with all possible
diligence. —

John Hancock Presidt.

Instructions to ... Oct 1776

Benjamin Franklin, Silas Deane and

Arthur Lee Commissioners appointed by the Congress of the united States of America ...

There is herewith delivered to you a plan of a treaty with his most Christian majesty of France approved of in Congress on the part of the united States of America.

It is the wish of Congress that the treaty should be concluded, and you are hereby instructed to use every means in your power for concluding it conformable to the plan you have received.

If you shall find that to be impracticable, you are hereby authorized to relax the demands of the united States and to enlarge their offers agreeably to the following directions.

If his most Christian majesty shall not consent that the subjects people and inhabitants of the united States shall have the privileges proposed in the second article, then the united States ought not to give the subjects of his most Christian majesty the privileges proposed in the first article; but

that

determined not to agree to it, you can com-

powered to add to it as follows. That the united States will never be subject or acknowledge allegiance or obedience to the king or crown or parliament of great Britain, nor grant to that nation any exclusive trade or any advantages or privileges in trade more than to his most Christian majesty; neither shall any treaty for terminating the present war between the king of great Britain and the united States or any war which may be declared by the king of Great Britain against his most Christian majesty, in consequence of this treaty, take effect until the expiration of six calendar months after the negotiation for that purpose shall have been duly notified in the former instance by the united States to his most Christian majesty and in the other instance by his most Christian majesty to the united States, to the end that both these parties may be included in the peace, if they think proper.

The eleventh and twelfth articles are to be waved, if you find that the treaty will be interrupted by insisting on them.

You will press the thirteenth article, but let

not

not the fate of the treaty depend upon obtaining it.

If his most Christian majesty should be unwilling to engage to the fifteenth article of the treaty, you are directed to insist that the goods and effects of enemies on board the ships of war of either party shall be liable to seizure and confiscation.

The twenty fourth article is not to be insisted on.

You will solicit the court of France for an immediate supply of twenty or thirty thousand muskets and bayonets and a large supply of ammunition and a few field pieces to be sent under convoy by France. The united states engage for the payment of the arms, artillery and ammunition and to indemnify France for the expence of the convoy.

Engage a few good engineers in the service of the united states.

It is highly probable that France means not to let the united states sink in the present contest; but as the difficulty of obtaining from our country our condition may cause an opinion to be entertained, that we are able to support the war on our own strength and resources longer than in fact we can do, it will be proper for you to press for the

immediate

immediate and explicit declaration of France in our favour upon a suggestion that a reunion with great Britain may be the consequence of a delay.

If Spain be disinclined to our employment on apprehension of danger to her dominion in South America, you are impowered to give the strongest assurances that that crown will receive no molestation from the United States in the possession of those territories.

You are transmitted to us the most speedy and full intelligence of your progress in this and of any other European transactions, that it may import us to know.

You are desired to get the best and earliest information that you possibly can of any negotiations that the court of London may be carrying on for obtaining foreign mercenaries to be employed against these States the next campaign, and if any such design is in agitation you will endeavour to prevail with the court of France to exert its influence in the most effectual manner to prevent the execution

of

of such designs

You are desired to obtain as early & possible a public acknowledgment of the independency of these States on the crown and parliament of great Britain by the court of France.

In conducting this important business the Congress have the greatest confidence in your address, abilities, vigilance and attachment to the interests of the united states & wish you every success.

By order of Congress

John Hancock President

A plan of a treaty with his most Christian Majesty of France.

There shall be a firm inviolable & universal peace and a true and sincere friendship between the most serene and mighty prince Lewis the sixteenth, the most Christian King, his heirs and successors and the united states of America; and the subjects of the most Christian king and of the said states; and between the countries islands, cities and towns situate under the jurisdiction of the most Christian king and of the said united states and the people and inhabitants thereof of every degree; without exception of persons or places; And the terms hereinafter mentioned shall be perpetual between the most Christian king, his heirs and successors and the said united states.

Art. 1. The subjects of the most Christian king shall pay no other duties or imposts in the ports, havens, roads, countries, islands, cities or towns of the said united states or any of them, than the natives thereof, or any commercial companies established by them or any of them shall pay; but shall enjoy all other the rights, liberties, privileges, immunities and exemptions in trade, navigation and commerce in passing from one part thereof to another and in going to and from the same, from and to any part of the world, which the said natives or companies enjoy.

Art. 2. The subjects, people and inhabitants of the said
united States and every of them shall pay no other
duties or imposts in the ports, havens, roads, countries,
islands cities or towns of the most Christian king, than
are or shall be paid by the subjects, people and inhabi-
tants of such countries, islands, cities or towns of
the said most Christian king, or any commercial companies established by
the said most Christian king shall pay; but shall enjoy
all other rights, liberties, privileges, immunities
and exemptions in trade navigation and commerce
in passing from one port or place of to another, and in
going to and from the same, from and to any part of
the world, which the said subjects, people or inhabitants or companies enjoy.

Art. 3. The most Christian king shall employ
all the means in his power to protect and defend all vessels
and the effects belonging to the subjects, people or inhabi-
tants of the said united States or any of them being in
his ports, havens or roads, or on the seas near to his coun-
tries, islands, cities or towns, and to recover and restore to
the right owners their agents or attornies all such
vessels and effects, which shall be taken within his
jurisdiction; and his ships of war or any convoys
sailing under his authority shall, upon all occasions,
take under their protection all vessels belonging to the
subjects, people or inhabitants of the said united States

or

any of them and holding the same course or going the same way and shall defend such vessels, as long as they hold the same course or go the same way, against all attacks, force and violence in the same manner, as they ought to protect and defend vessels belonging to the subjects of the most Christian king.

Art. 4. In like manner the said united States & their ships of war and convoys sailing under their authority shall protect and defend all vessels and effects belonging to the subjects of the most Christian king, and endeavour to recover and restore them, if taken within the jurisdiction of the said united States, or any of them.

Art. 5. The most Christian king and the said united States shall not receive nor suffer to be received into any of their ports, havens, roads, countries, islands, cities or towns any pirates or sea robbers or afford or suffer any entertainment, assistance or provision to be afforded to them, but shall endeavour by all means, that all pirates and sea robbers & their partners, sharers and abettors be found out, apprehended and suffer condign punishment; and all the vessels and effects piratically taken and brought into the ports or havens of the most Christian king or the said

united

united states, which can be found, although they be sold
shall be restored or satisfaction given therefor to the
right owners, their agents or attornies demanding the
same and making the right of property to appear by
due proof.

Art. 6. The most Christian king shall protect, defend
and secure, as far as in his power, the subjects people and
inhabitants of the said united states and every of them
and their vessels and effects of every kind against all
attacks, assaults, violencies, injuries, depredations or
plunderings by or from the king or emperor of Mo-
rocco or Fez and the states of Algiers, Tunis & Tripoli
and any of them and every other prince state and power
on the coast of Barbary in Africa and the subjects of
the said kings emperor states and powers and of every
of them in the same manner and as effectually & fully
and as much to the benefit, advantage, ease and safety
of the said united states and every of them and of the
subjects, people and inhabitants thereof, to all intents
and purposes as the king and kingdom of great Britain
before the commencement of the present war, protected
defended and secured the people and inhabitants of the
said united states, then called the british colonies in
North America, their vessels and effects against all such
attacks, assaults, violencies, injuries depredations & plunderings

Art.

ad.

Art. 7. If in consequence of this treaty the king of great Britain should declare war against the most Christian king, the said united States shall not assist great Britain in such war with men, money, ships or any of the articles in this treaty denominated contraband goods.

Art. 8. The most Christian king shall never invade nor under any pretense attempt to possess himself of Labradore, New Britain, Nova Scotia, Acadia, Canada, Florida, nor any of the countries, cities or towns on the continent of North America, nor of the islands of Newfoundland Cape Breton, St. Johns, Anticosti, nor of any other island lying near to the said continent in the seas or in any gulf, bay or river; it being the true intent and meaning of this treaty that the said united States shall have the sole exclusive undivided & perpetual possession of all the countries, cities and towns on the said continent and of all islands near to it, which now are or lately were under the jurisdiction of or subject to the king or crown of great Britain, whenever they shall be united or confederated with the said united States.

The most Christian king shall retain the same rights of fishery on the banks of Newfoundland and all other rights relating to any of the said islands, which he is intitled to by virtue of the treaty of Paris.

Art.

Art. 9. The subjects, inhabitants, merchants, commanders of ships, masters and mariners of the states, provinces and dominions of each party respectively shall abstain and forbear to fish in all places possessed, or which shall be possessed by the other party. The most Christian king's subjects shall not fish in the havens, bays, creeks, roads, coasts or places, which the said united states hold or shall hereafter hold; and in like manner the subjects people and inhabitants of the said united states shall not fish in the havens, bays, creeks, roads, coasts or places which the most Christian king possesses or shall hereafter possess; and if any ship or vessel shall be found fishing contrary to the tenor of this treaty, the said ship or vessel with its lading, proof being made thereof, shall be confiscated.

Art. 10. If in any war, the most Christian king shall conquer or get possession of the islands in the west Indies, now under the jurisdiction of the king or crown of great Britain, or any of them, or any dominions of the said king or crown in any other part of the world, the subjects, people and inhabitants of the said united states, and every of them shall enjoy the same rights, liberties, privileges, immunities and exemptions in trade commerce & navigation to and from the said islands and dominions, that are mentioned in the second article of this treaty.

Art.

Art. 11. It is the true intent and meaning of this treaty, that no higher or other duties shall be imposed upon the exportation of any thing of the growth, production or manufacture of the islands in the west indies now belonging, or which may hereafter belong, to the most Christian king to the said united states or any of them, than the lowest that are or shall be imposed on the exportation thereof to France or to any other part of the world.

Art. 12. It is agreed by and between the said parties, that no duties whatever shall ever hereafter be imposed on the exportation of molasses from any of the islands and dominions of the most Christian king in the west indies to any of these united states.

Art. 13. The subjects people and inhabitants of the said united states or any of them being merchants residing in France and their property and effects of every kind shall be exempt from the droit de Aubeine.

Art. 14. The merchant ship of either of the parties, which shall be making into a port belonging to the enemy of the other ally and concerning whose voyage and the species of goods on board her there shall be just grounds of suspicion, shall be obliged to exhibit as well upon the high seas, as in the ports and havens not only her sea passports but likewise certificates expressly shewing that her goods are not of the number of those, which have been prohibited as contraband

Art.

Art. 15. If by the exhibiting of the above said certificates the other party discover, there are any of those sorts of goods which are prohibited & declared contraband and consigned for a port under the obedience of his enemies, it shall not be lawful to break up the hatches of such ship or to open any chest, coffers, packs, casks, or any other vessels found therein, or to remove the smallest parcels of her goods, whether such ship belongs to the subjects of France or the inhabitants of the said united States, unless the lading be brought on shore in the presence of the officers of the court of admiralty and an inventory thereof made; but there shall be no allowance to sell, exchange or alienate the same in any manner, until after that due & lawful process shall have been had against such prohibited goods, and the court of admiralty shall, by a sentence pronounced, have confiscated the same: saving always as well the ship itself, as any other goods found therein, which by this treaty are to be esteemed free: Neither may they be detained on pretence of their being as it were infected by the prohibited goods, much less shall they be confiscated as lawful prize: But if not the whole cargo, but only part thereof shall consist of prohibited or contraband goods and the commander of the ship shall be ready & willing to deliver them to the captor, who has discovered them, in such case, the captor having

having received those goods shall forthwith discharge the ship and not hinder her by any means freely to prosecute the voyage, on which she was bound.

Art. 16. On the contrary it is agreed, that whatever shall be found to be laden by the subjects and inhabitants of either party on any ship belonging to the enemy of the other or to his subjects, the whole, although it be not of the sort of prohibited goods, may be confiscated in the same manner, as if it belonged to the enemy himself; except such goods and merchandizes as were put on board such ship before the declaration of war, or even after such declaration, if so be it were done without knowledge of such declaration. So that the goods of the subjects & people of either party, whether they be of the nature of such as are prohibited, or otherwise, which, as is aforesaid, were put on board any ship belonging to an enemy before the war, or after the declaration of the same, without the knowledge of it, shall no ways be liable to confiscation, but shall well and truly be restored without delay to the proprietors demanding the same; but so, as that if the said merchandizes be contraband, it shall not be any ways lawful to carry them afterwards to any ports belonging to the enemy

Art. 17. And that more effectual care may be taken for the security of the subjects & inhabitants of both parties, that they suffer no injury by the men of war or privateers

of

of the other party, all the commanders of the ships of the most Christian King and of the said united States, and all their subjects and inhabitants, shall be forbid doing any injury or damage to the other side; and if they act to the contrary they shall be punished, and shall moreover be bound to make satisfaction for all matters of damage, and the interest thereof, by reparation under the pain and obligation of their person and goods.

Art. 18. All ships and merchandizes, of what nature soever, which shall be rescued out of the hands of any pirates or robbers on the high seas, shall be brought into some port of either state and shall be delivered to the custody of the officers of that port, in order to be restored entire to the true proprietor, as soon as due and sufficient proof shall be made concerning the property thereof.

Art. 19. It shall be lawful for the ships of war of either party and privateers freely to carry, whithersoever they please, the ships and goods taken from their enemies, without being obliged to pay any duty to the officers of the admiralty or any other judges; nor shall such prizes be arrested or seized, when they come to enter the ports of either party; nor shall the searchers or other officers of those places search the same or make examination concerning the lawfulness of such prizes, but they

they may hoist sail at any time and depart and carry their prizes to the places expressed in their commissions, which the commanders of such ships of war shall be obliged to shew: On the contrary no shelter or refuge shall be given in their ports to such as shall have made prize of the subjects people or property of either of the parties; but if such shall come in, being forced by stress of weather or the danger of the sea, all proper means shall be vigorously used that they go out and retire from thence as soon as possible.

Art. 20. If any ships belonging to either of the parties, their people or subjects shall, within the coasts or dominions of the other, run upon the lands or be wrecked or suffer any other damage, all friendly assistance and relief shall be given to the persons shipwrecked or such as shall be in danger thereof: and letters of safe conduct shall likewise be given to them for their free and quiet passage from thence & the return of every one to his own country.

Art. 21. In case the subjects and inhabitants of either party with their shipping, whether public and of war, or private and of merchants, be forced through stress of weather, pursuit of pirates or enemies, or any other urgent necessity for seeking of shelter and harbour to retreat and enter into any of the rivers, creeks, bays, havens, roads, ports or shores belonging

belonging to the other party, they shall be received & treated with all humanity and kindness & enjoy all friendly protection and help; and they shall be permitted to refresh & provide themselves at reasonable rates with victuals & all things needful for the sustenance of their persons or reparation of their ships and conveniency of their voyage; and they shall no ways be detained or hindred from returning out of the said ports or roads, but may remove and depart, when and whither they please without any let or hindrance.

Art. 22. For the better promoting of commerce on both sides it is agreed, that if a war shall break out between the said two nations, six months after the proclamation of war shall be allowed to the merchants in the cities and towns where they live for selling and transporting their goods and merchandizes; and if any thing be taken from them or any injury be done them, within that term by either party, or the people or subjects of either, full satisfaction shall be made for the same.

Art. 23. No subjects of the most Christian king shall apply for or take any commission or letters of marque for arming any ship or ships to act as privateers against the said united States or any of them, or against the subjects, people or inhabitants of the said united States or any of them or against the Property of any of the Inhabitants of any of them from any prince or state, with which the said united States shall

be

be at war. Nor shall any citizen subject or inhabitant of the said united States or any of them apply for, or take any commission or letters of marque for arming any ship or ships to act as privateers against the subjects of the most Christian king or any of them or the property of any of them from any prince or state, with which the said king shall be at war: and if any person of either nation shall take such commissions or letters of marque, he shall be punished as a pirate.

Art. 24. It shall not be lawful for any foreign privateers not belonging to the subjects of the most Christian king, nor citizens of the said united States, who have commissions from any other prince or state in enmity with either nation to fit their ships in the ports of either the one or the other of the aforesaid parties, to sell what they have taken, or in any other manner whatsoever to exchange their ships, merchandizes or any other lading; neither shall they be allowed even to purchase victuals, except such as shall be necessary for their going to the next port of that prince or state, from which they have commissions.

Art. 25. It shall be lawful for all and singular the subjects of the most Christian king and the citizens, people & inhabitants of the said united States to sail with their ships with all manner of liberty and security; no distinction being made, who are the proprietors of the merchandizes laden thereon from

Art.

any

any port to the places of those, who now are or hereafter shall be at enmity with the most Christian king or the united States. It shall likewise be lawful for the subjects & inhabitants aforesaid to sail with the ships and merchandizes aforementioned and to trade with the same liberty and security from the places, ports and havens of those who are enemies of both or either party, without any opposition or disturbance whatsoever, not only directly from the places of the enemy aforementioned to neutral places; but also from one place belonging to an enemy to another place belonging to an enemy, whether they be under the jurisdiction of the same prince or under several: And it is hereby stipulated that free ships shall also give a freedom to goods, and that every thing shall be deemed to be free and exempt, which shall be found on board the ships belonging to the subjects of either of the confederates; although the whole lading or any part thereof should appertain to the enemies of either, contraband goods being always excepted. It is also agreed in like manner that the same liberty be extended to persons who are on board a free ship with this effect, that although they be enemies to both or either party, they are not to be taken out of that free ship, unless they are soldiers and in actual service of the enemies.

Art. 26. This liberty of navigation and commerce shall

extend

calend to all kinds of merchandizes excepting those only, which are distinguished by the name of contraband: under this name of contraband or prohibited goods shall be comprehended arms, great guns, bombs with their fuzes, and other things belonging to them, fire balls, gunpowder, match, cannon ball, pikes, swords, lances, spears, halberts, mortars, petards, granadoes, saltpetre, muskets, musket ball, helmets, head pieces, breastplates, coats of mail and the like kinds of arms proper for arming soldiers, musket rests, belts, horses with their furniture and all other warlike instruments whatever. These merchandizes, which follow, shall not be reckoned among contraband or prohibited goods, that is to say, all sorts of cloths, and all other manufactures woven of any wool, flax, silk, cotton or any other materials whatever, all kinds of wearing apparel together with the species, whereof they are used to be made, gold and silver as well coined as uncoined, tin, iron, lead, copper, brass, coals, as also wheat and barley and any other kind of corn and pulse; tobacco and likewise all manner of spices, salted and smoked flesh, salted fish, cheese and butter, beer, oils, wines, sugars and all sorts of salts, and in general all provisions, which serve for the nourishment of mankind and the sustenance of lives; furthermore all kinds of cotton, hemp, flax, tar, pitch, ropes, cables, sails, sail cloths, anchors and any parts of anchors, also ships-

mast

masts, planks, boards and beams of what kees soever, and all other things proper either for building or repairing ships and all other goods whatever, which have not been worked into the form of any instrument or thing prepared for war by land or by sea, shall not be reputed contraband, much less such as have been already wrought and made up for any other use; all which shall wholly be reckoned among free goods, as likewise all other merchandizes and things, which are not comprehended and particularly mentioned in the foregoing enumeration of contraband goods; so that they may be transported and carried in the freest manner by the subjects of both confederates even to places belonging to an enemy, such towns or places being only excepted, as are at that time besieged, blocked up or invested.

Art. 27. To the end that all manner of dissentions and quarrels may be avoided and prevented on one side and the other it is agreed that in case either of the parties hereto should be engaged in war, the ships and vessels belonging to the subjects or people of the other ally must be furnished with sea letters or passports expressing the name, property and bulk of the ship, as also the name and place of habitation of the master or commander of the said ship, that it may appear thereby, that the ship really and truly belongs to the

the subjects of one of the parties, which pass port shall be made out and granted according to the form annexed to this treaty; they shall likewise be valid during every year, that is, if the ship happens to return home within the space of a year. It is likewise agreed, that such ships being laden are to be provided not only with pass ports as above-mentioned, but also with certificates containing the several particulars of the cargo, the place whence the ship sailed and whither she is bound, that so it may be known, whether any forbidden or contraband goods be on board the same, which certificates shall be made out by the officers of the place, whence the ship set sail, in the accustomed form. And if any one shall think it fit or advisable to examine the said certificates the person to whom the goods on board belong, he may freely do so.

Art. 28. The ships of the subjects and inhabitants of either of the parties coming upon any coasts belonging to either of the said allies, but not willing to enter into port, or being entered into port and not willing to unload their cargoes or break bulk, shall not be obliged to give an account of their lading, unless they should be suspected upon some manifest tokens of carrying to the enemy of the other ally any prohibited goods called contraband. And in case of such manifest suspicion, the said subjects and inhabitants

of

of either of the parties shall be obliged to exhibit in the ports their passports or certificates in the manner before specified.

Art. 29. If the ships of the said subjects, people or inhabitants of either of the parties shall be met with either sailing along the coasts or on the high seas by any ships of war of the other or by any privateers, the said ships of war or privateers, for the avoiding of any disorder, shall remain out of cannon shot and may send their boats aboard the merchant ship, which they shall so meet with, and may enter her to the number of two or three men only, to whom the master or commander of such ship or vessel shall exhibit his passport concerning the property of the ship made out according to the form inserted in this present treaty, and the ship when she shall have shewed such passport shall be free and at liberty to pursue her voyage, so as it shall not be lawful to molest or search her in any manner, or to give her chase, or force her to quit her intended course.

Art 30. It is also agreed that all goods, when once put on board the ships or vessels of either parties, shall be subject to no farther visitation; but all visitation or search shall be made before hand and all prohibited goods shall be stopped on the spot before the same be put on board the ships or vessels of the respective state; nor shall either the

the persons or goods of the subjects of his most Christian majesty or the united states be put under any arrest or molested by any other kind of embargo for that cause, and only the subject of that state, to whom the goods have been or shall be prohibited and shall presume to sell or alienate such sort of goods shall be duly punished for the offence.

By order of Congress
John Hancock Presidt

Mr Jefferson having informed Congress that the state of his family will not permit him to accept the honour of going their commissioner to France, whereupon

Resolved that another be elected in his room

The ballots being taken

Arthur Lee esquire was elected

Resolved, That the secret committee be directed to acquaint him of his appointment & that his power & instructions are lodged in Paris.

Extract from the minutes

Chas Thomson Secy

Philadelphia October 23 1776.

Arthur Lee Esq.,

Sir

By this conveyance we transmit to Silas Deane Esq. a resolve of the honble the continental Congress of delegates from the thirteen United States of America, whereby you are appointed one of their commissioners for negociating a Treaty of Alliance Amity and Commerce with the Court of France and also for negoicating Treaties With Other Nations agreeable to certain plans and instructions of Congress which we have transmitted by various conveyances to Mr. Deane another of the Commissioners.

We have requested him to give you immediate notice to join him, and on your meeting to deliver this letter and lay before you all the papers and instructions, also to deliver you the Resolve whereby you are appointed.

We flatter ourselves from the assurances of your friends here, that you will chearfully undertake thy important business and that our country will greatly benefit of those abilities and that attachment you have already manifested in sundry important services which at a proper period, shall be made known to those you would wish.

This committee will think it proper to address all their dispatches unto Mr. Deane untill they have certain advice that his colleagues have joined him, but the communication of them will be the same as if addressed to the whole.

We remain with much esteem and regard,

Sir

Your most obed & hble Servts

ROB MORRIS

B. FRANKLIN

As the scarcity of Arms, artillery, and other military stores is so considerable, would it not be proper to instruct the Ambassador to France that he press for the immediate supply of 20, or 30 thousand stand of well fitted Muskets & Bayonets, a good supply of brass field pieces, Gunpowder &c. These to be sent under convoy, and there 12 Ships engaged for the purpose. A few good Engineers would be greatly serviceable. It seems very clear that France means not to let G. B. sink in the present Contest, but distance and difficulty in giving true accounts of our condition may & must be the cause of opinions being entertained of our power to support the War on our own strength and resources Conceive that we can in fact do — Considering this may it not be proper for the Ambassador to press for the immediate and precise declaration of France, upon a suggestion that our reunion with G. B. may be greatly endangered by delay —

Should Spain be disinclined to our cause from an apprehension of danger to her South American dominions, cannot France be prevailed on at our request and assurances not to disturb Spain to Guarantee to that Crown her Territories there against any molestation from us. —

Should not the Ambassador be instructed to give us the most speedy & effectual intelligence of his progress in this business, and of any

Proposed addition
to the instructions given
the Commissioners going
to France 1776 Oct.
Agreed to

Oct. 29. Congress took into consideration the report of a committee on the letter from the Commissioners at France of

Dear Sir, Philadelphia 9th Nov. 1776

As I have received no answer to the letter I wrote you by the Express from Congress, I conclude it miscarried, & therefore with much regret, that you had declined both the voyage, and your seat in Congress. No Man feels more deeply than I do, the loss of, and the Love of, private enjoyments; but let the attention to these be universal, and we are gone, beyond redemption lost in the deep perdition of Slavery. By every account from Ca the Champlain we had reason to think ourselves in no danger on that water for this Campaign. Nor did Gen. Arnold seem to apprehend any until he was defeated by an enemy four times as strong as himself. This Officer, fiery, bold, and enterprizing, but without discretion, never thought of informing himself how the enemy were on, and he had no idea of retiring when he saw them coming, tho so much superior to his force. Since his defeat, our people evacuated Crown point, and joined their whole force at Ticonderoga. We do not hear the enemy have thought proper to visit them there, and the season must now stop operations on the Lake. On the bor the Sound it has been a war of skirmishes, in which we have gained 5 out of 6. Never was a Ship more maul a Frigate that lately attempted Fort Washington, she had eighteen pounders thro her and most of the guns double d. The same time she attacked the same place by Land repelled, but the day following the enemy gained an emin from our people near the white plains, on the sound, about miles above Kings bridge. The loss on our part in killed & wounded, between 3 & 400, the enemies loss considerable, but numbers not so. Our troops fought well and retired in order before a much superior force. This was Gen. Douglas brigade consisting of York, Irish, Highland, & Hessian regular troops. In a skirmish the next day we learn the enemy were defeated. By dates from Paris middle of August it seems quite probable that the quarrel between Spain & Portugal with the manoeuvres of the Russian fleet will produce events in Europe of great importance to our cause.

I have been informed that many disaffected and unfriendly characters and emissaries have been attempting to work mischief. From the justice of the

Thomas

they would not suffer
House I should expect the character of an absent person
(and one in their service) to be reviled by any slande
tongue whatever. When I am present, I shall be perfect
satisfied with the justice I am able to do myself. From
your candor Sir, and knowledge of my political co
=ments, I hope such mistakings as may happen in my
presence will be rectified.

Among the various difficulties
that press our Country, I know of none greater than
the want of Ships and Seamen — Perhaps a good
basis for the latter might be an alteration of the
Act of Assembly for binding out Orphan & poor chil
=dren, and direct that for some time at least, the
whole of such children should be bound to the sea
Without safe Ports to build ships in, and give protec
=tion to foreign Vessels, our trade must long langu
Would it not be proper therefore, to make Ports=
=mouth and Norfolk immediately as strong as
Cannon can render them, by adding to the gun batter
as one any from York as will also save the pump
Stephen tells me that the works he laid out at
mouth will (if properly gunned) that
e in a state of security from any Sea force
It can come against it. The Cannon are now
York, experience having incontestably, that Ship
will pass any fort or Battery with ease, when favore
by wind and tide. The quantity of seasoned timber
said to be in the neighborhood of Norfolk would form
a number of fine Vessels, whether for fighting or
commerce. I think the large Sea galleys that can
such a number of men for war and for the navigation
part of the Vessel, are well contrived for the defence
of our bay and for raising seamen quickly. I sent
our Navy board a draught of the large galleys built
here by order of Congress. It seems to me, that for the
different purposes of battery and ships our country
could well employ a thousand Cannon. How very
important is it that the Cannon foundery on Jamesrier

should be pushed forwith all possible vigor and attention. I understand Mr. Ballantine manages some part of these works, if so, my fears are that very little may be expected. He will talk amazingly, promise most fairly, but do nothing to purpose. This I fancy has been the case with a variety of that Gentlemans undertakings, but such conduct in the Cannon business, will ruin us. I am very uneasy Town; on this account. Let us have Cannon. Small arms, gun powder, and industry; we shall be secure. But it is in vain to have good systems of Government, and good Laws, if we are exposed to the ravage of the Sword, and for want of securing — This winter will be an age to us Let us get strong in Vessels, fortifications in proper places. Let us import plenty of military stores, soldiers Cloathing, and Sail cloth for tents, shipping &c — I do not think our armed Vessels can be employed in any other business as in an well two: those to go to the French & Dutch Islands for their men of war, carrying Tob°. & fine flour to purchase them.

I am, with much esteem, dear Sir, affectionately yours

Richard Henry Lee

P. S. Let every method be employed to get the valuable old papers that Col°. Richard Bland was possessed of. R. H. L.

(17)

In Congress, 13 November 1776.

The Secret Committee brought in a Report which was taken into Consideration; Whereupon

Resolved,

That the Secret Committee be directed to write Letters to Governour Cooke of Rhode Island, the Continental Agent in Rhode Island and such other Persons as they shall think proper, to make strict Enquiry into the Conduct of Capt Timothy Green respecting the Capture or Seizure of the Ship Betsy and Adams employed in the Continental Service, cause him to be prosecuted for the Penalty of the given when he received his Commission, if it shall appear on the Enquiry that, in Justice to the Government, such Prosecution should be commenced, and the said Committee are authorized to do what may be necessary for supporting the Prosecution.

Extract from the Journals of Congress

William Houston, Depy

Resolution of Congress
13 Novr. 1776
Inclosing
Report of Secret Comtee
relative
to the conduct of Capt. Timothy Peirce
in captureing the Ships Hancock
& Adams, in Continl. Service

=

Resolve of Congress
relative to the
Hancock & Adams

Dear Sir

1776

I wrote you from Hamborough, which I hope you received and have now before me yours of the 15th Ult. as my stay in this City afforded nothing new, I should not have troubled you with this, but meerly to set our right respecting that unhappy affair relating to B—— I recollect mentioning in my conversation with you at . . that He had wrote that immediately on his return from his first visit to see our friend a Person connected with administration had waited him & asked him many questions, but nothing with regard to the . . I feel only do not recollect, but am positive I neither could say or mean it. For on receiving your Brothers letter, it was the first reflection I made, that such a circumstance should have happened & he not acquainted our friend with it; from whence consequences easy to be conceived, might naturally be deduced. I remember well your suspicions for that had weight with me Give me leave once more to declare, that in this transaction I had the public good in view. That I exacted a positive promise from our friend, that yr Brothers name never should be mentioned as the accuser. That that he should pay what attention to the accusation, the nature of the charge seemed to require. As an, I never will myself accuse any man, but on my own knowledge of his guilt. For tho' I may have sufficient enough to guard against him myself, I will not let mutterings ruin him with others. Did not mention to yr B. D. being in Pa by the Desire of our Friend, with positive assurances that nothing disagreeable should arise from that an-

fortunately & brought them & now think I ought to have
an oath for the H. Gov^t, as in gratitude to the confidence
in me at that time by a man, whom most Traitors at the
war charged with, might run forever. Altho' you
Spanish war solicited I should have made it with a free
will & for the public Mind, or in the order hours of reflection can
point me any one motive for my conduct, than what I have
mentioned that were the smallest appearance of personality to
induce them for I am not thought it at encumbent on a man
to exculpate himself from base & malicious aspersions, as to resign himself
to the authors of them. Since more decisive I have suffered more
by this affair & that of the minutia than you can conceive
by Letters from that date inform me, that he is dying in the
greatest agonies of despair, crying I fear to disappointed ambition &
revenge, his Creditors were plundering his effects & his wife had
decamped with the Horse of the Army, leaving him in that wretch-
ed situation. Should I hear any news to write you that would recompense
the trouble I have given you in reading so much about myself, the
Hope you receive it from the same quarter I should expect it.
Pray do not mention these to. The Spirit of disunion I think
is now on the Wane & I could command the - - - command the evil
Spirit sent to Saul. At Bethesda Pitch at St Mary's Creek there
it had suspended its commission. Send from Philad^a the accounts
of the proceedings you mention, they are more & more alarming here.
I dare not write - - - by this - - name appeared to the patriots
Should we be disappointed in - - - I shall in my return
to Frame such an opportunity of returning your Dispatches with

love to give me a name in the City, to send letters to you
covered by capital foreign houses to their Friends, that if
I go so may after what has happened to you. Think it
dangerous to correspond with me. Any observations that I
make here that I think with your attention, I shall take care
not in communicating. Do not trust yourself with my
Cant letter. They are original & Love, spelling & importance
he may affect delicacy on my account, but the expectation
of it ought to be sufficient, as it gives a double stile to peace
one of which Franklin had disinterested friendship when in England
& now no other greater Friend now or who are free friends
Friends, but I believe I could have made L. L. in Gil Blas
Paper perhaps some of which in or he friends might
see. he or they can do little without promptness or punctuality
Glad it has not been for Rosette, I really believe I should have
been deserted by the malicious insinuations of a man whom
I now pity; for he was the best Father in the world. What poor
Child is not calculated for a Father. What has become of
Lotte
when you see him reproach him from me. You will
I believe to me directed to the care of Mr
cover to Messrs. Horneca, Foriguex & Co. Amsterdam
by that means I shall receive your letter as I pursue
receive this very soon. Have you any thing about a gene-
ral embargo on the shipping in U.S.? Adieu

Berlin 25th Novemr 1778

Dear Sir (N 123) Baltimore Nov.r 29th 1776

I have communicated to Capt Nicholson what you mention in your Letter of the 25th, expressing the desire of Congress to have his Frigate fitted for Sea as soon as possible; and have asked his own opinion how soon (from her present Circumstances) She can be ready. He says that if he is supplyed with one large Anchor & should not be disapointed in his expectations of getting part of the Ship Defences Crew, he can certainly have her ready to Sail in a Month at the utmost. — The Ship Defence is a few days ago arrived at Annapolis from her Cruise, And as her Crew were all most every one recruited by Capt Nicholson, they went out on the late Cruise chiefly at Capt Nicholson's request & with the expectation of Shipping with him in the Frigate on their Return. The time of their enlistment will be expired about the 15th or 20th of next Month, before which they can't leave the Defence — Capt Nicholson thinks If he can get only half of them that he will be well off as to Seamen; — The Frigate has got 22 of her 12 Pounders mounted, the other 2 We expect to receive immediately. The 4 Pounders are not all come to hand, But that will not delay the Vessel as the Capt thinks it will not be proper to Mount them now at going out —

Two of the Officers are now on the Eastern Shore with Casks Salt & Coopers getting Pork put up, & part of the Beef is now making up

making up here. — I have got the Gunsmiths employd in making the Musquets which will be all compleated in 3 Weeks. —

I will now give you a detail of the principal Wants, which I hope Congress will endeavour to supply by some Means or other; some of them being such as I see no prospect of being able to supply here. — Blankets, of these we can get none either in Town or Country, both being ransacked to equip the Flying Camp Troops. — The heavey Anchor w.h I informd you Mr. Young had procured in Virginia is not yet brought up: But supposing it certainly to be got, another of the largest Seize is still wanted. — Inclosed you have a List of the light Canvas yet wanted. The Sail Maker delivered Me this lately, altho he had long before told Me, we had enough or nearly so. — As We expected in a Vess.l here from Statia with Canvas, I thought it best to wait her Arrival rather than trouble Congress about it. The Vessel is arrived a few days agoe at Sinepuaent, but cant learn the particulars of her Cargo. — Capt. Nicholson thinks that if you dont expect to get out any more than One of the Frigates from Philad.a this Winter, You can spare a Set of those light Sails for him. — In the meantime I shall not fail to purchase whatever light Canvas may be arrivd in the Vess.l at Sinepuax.t

On receiving the Advices yesterday that Genl Howe seemed bent on pushing for Philad.a, a Number of the Officers & Gentlemen of Col.o Buchanans Batal.n chiefly of this Town Militia, met & came to a Resolution of trying to make up a Number of Volunteers to march as soon as possible to Philad.a — I have not a doubt that they will be able to make up a respectable Number, should none others besides meer Gentlemen go. — I flatter myself that the Example will have the most Salutary effect & Simulate many other Batallions to march a Number of Volunteers on this very import.t Occasion. — I wish my Situation would admit of my Marching, but that is impossible. Mr. Stewart my Bro.r In Law & Co.y defect for the Frigate & an Officer of the Mercantile Company, will cer:tainly march for one altho but Just emerging from a Fever. My Bro.r is but Just begin.g to move about after a tedious Fever, w.h subjects me to no little Busines, so that I have no hopes of being able to go. — Capt.n Nicholson proposed to go along with the Volunteers, as he thinks he could be of Service in assisting about the Artillery: But I have perswaded him to go up to Cong.s as soon as ever the Busi.s of the Frigate will admit of it. Accordingly he has res:solved to go next Week. — I purpose getting him to send an Expres for Capt.n Boucher who lives at Georges Town on Potom.k

No: 321

(p. 122)

in Order to take him up with him, as I am perswaded he is a Gentn very capable of being serviceable in any departmt about the Artillery. This Captn Bouchor is the same who was lately in the Service of yr Colony, & formerly First Lieut to Captn Nicholson in the Defence. I know him to be as brave a Man as lives, & One who will readily serve his Country on any Emergency. I am very sorry he was not thought of to be appointed to One of the Contin Vessls for which I apprehend he is One of the fittest Men on this Contt. I know Capt Nicholson considers him as much superior to himself in the Knowledge of Marine Matters. He is a Man of Education & excellent Genius, and was brought up regularly in the Navy.

God grant us all firmness & Resolution at this important Crisis. I neither wish nor expect to survive the Liberties of our Country. If that is to perish, let us like Sampson bury Ourselves in the Ruins. Adieu My Dear Sir & May God bless you, prays

Your very hble Servt

Saml Purviance Junr

No. 321.

Mr Purviance

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The following two documents evidentally relate to a legal case handled by Arthur Lee in London.

(No 116)

These are to certify whom it may concern That Richard Lowe the Bearer hereof is duly admitted one of the Watermen of the City of London to attend upon the Lord Mayor & Aldermen of the said City when & ow often as he shall be thereunto required of which all persons who are Impowered to Impress Men into his Majesty's Sea Service are desired to take Notice for that by such his Admission he is exempted from being compelled into such Service His Age Name & Description being inserted in the margin thereof Witness my hand & Seal of my Office this 20th day of October in the 16th Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the 3d by the grace of God King of Great Br. ffrance & Ireland King Defender of the Faith &c in the year of our Lord 1776

Aged about 29 Yrs - 5 ft 6 ins high of a dark Complexion wearing a Wig or Cap with a Scar on the Middle finger of the Right hand.

William D Dawson
Water Bailiff

He was compelled to serve the Kings Ship Resistance vide p. 339

(No 116)

8. Papers drafted by Arthur Lee

In the Kings Bench

To move for Habeas Corpus for the within named John Tubb upon the annexd Affid.t and Instrs —

Mr. Arthur Lee 1 Gr.

Mr. Recorder
Mr. Dunning & } same fee
Mr. Davenport

W.m Roberts
City Sollr.

17 Cav.l. Com. Journ. p.349
. That Mr. Holles shall acquaint the Lords that this House have done all they can in the Bill for raising of Soldiers

Serjeant Wilde reports the Bill for pres.r of Mariners with Amendments wch. being twice read was ordered to be engrossed.

17 Cav.l. 337. Serjeant Wilde reports the Bill for pres.r of Soldiers returned from the Lords at a conference with some amendments Question upon inserting the word compelled was past — It went with the Negative

In the preamble of this Bill wch. they sent up to the Lords, they declard — "That the King hid in no case or upon any occasion but the invasion from a foreign power authority to pres the free-born Subject, which could not consist with the freedom & liberty of the person"
Clarend. Hist. V.I. p.326

12 Clarendon says this was a stratagem to get the King, that he might now raise men, to disable himself from pressing upon any other occasion — The King therefore refused for some time upon the Defence of Prerogatives, to assent — he did however assent at last & in Novr. gave up his prerogative even in the opinion of Clarendon
ibid.

William Dawson Water Bailiff of the City of London — Robert Glendoning Clerk of the Waterman & Lighterman's Company Aged 77 Years & upwards Thomas Gates one of the Marshals of the City of London John Hill one of the Admitted Watermen of the Sd City & a Ruler of the Watermans Company Luke Mitchilson of Ratcliffe in the parish of St. Dunstans Stepney one other of the Watermen belonging to the Sd City and Richd Underhill of the Bankside Southwark Waterman & late one other of the Sd Watermen severally make Oath & Say And first this Deponent William Dawson for himself Saith That John Tubb now is & for several Years past has been one of the Watermen belonging to or in the Service of the Lord Mayor & Court of Aldermen of the Sd City there being in the whole constantly in that Service Thirty one such Watermen & no more whose Duty as such ~~appears by their Admissions Deeds~~ is to Attend upon the Lord Mayor & Aldermen of the Sd City when & as often as they shall be required as appears by the usual form of Certificates granted to them on such their Admissions a Copy of one of which is hereunto annexed And this Deponent further Saith that he a short time since received a Letter from the Sd John Tubb or signed with the name John Tubb Dated Gravesend 4th November 1776 whereby he informed him this Deponent that he had been Impressed into his Majesty's [illegible] Lieutenant Tait then

John Tubb who has informed him that her Son the s.d John Tubb has been since sent to & put on board his Majesty's Ship the Conquestadore of which Sam.l Thompson is the Captain or Commander lying at the Nore which last Information was corroborated & confirmed by a Letter from the s.d John Tubb to his s.d Mother & by her produced & shewn to him this Deponent And this Deponent further Saith that the s.d John Tubb is (as this Deponent verily believes from all the Information which he has been able to obtain respecting the same) still detained against his will & consent on board his s.d Majesty's Ship the Conquestadore commanded by the s.d Sam.l Thompson or some other Officer belonging thereto now lying at the Nore as afores.d And this Deponent John Hill for himself Saith that on the 7.th Day of this Instant Nov.r he saw the Mother of the s.d John Tubb in London who informed him this Deponent that her Son the s.d John Tubb was the 4.th Instant impressed into his Majesty's Service & put on board a Tender at Gravesend & that he was on the next Day sent down on board the s.d Tender to the s.d Ship named the Conquestadore then lying at the Nore. And all these Deponents severally & respectively make Oath & Say that from what they have ever heard recollect & believe & from the best Intelligence & Information which they have been able to procure touching the same such Appointments or Admissions to the Place or Office of Watermen of the said City have ever been deemed understood & taken to be sufficient Protections from such Impresses several [illegible] these Deponents have [illegible]

(No 115)

1776
Dec

Extract of a Letter endors'd in the hand writing of Robert Morris thus
Paris 3 Decr 1776 Silas Deane Esqr

Gentlemen, Paris Dec.r 3. 1776

My Letters from Bordeaux & some of which have receivd no reply, will give you my situation, but least some of them fail, I will briefly in this give you, the history of my proceedings.

Immediately on my arrival I sent forward your Bills, a large part of which were protested, & intelligence arriving of the loss of Canada, & the Carleton was even on the frontiers of the Colonies, & at the same time the formidable Armament gone going over, made every one be

give up the Colonies in subdued, to
have tried for a credit under such cir-
cumstances, would have been worse
than useless, it would have been mor
tifying, as a refusal must have been
the consequence Mr Delap generously
offerd to advance five or six thousand
pounds, but when I considerd it was
already more than four months since
you began to prepare for remitting &
that next to nothing was recd, I
really found myself embarrassd
hoping every day for some relief, I
spended engaging & came up to Paris
having precviously sent Mr Morris's
let, to his different Correspondents, not
e of which appeard inclinable to be

concerned on a credit, I sent to procure
the Goods in Amsterdam if to be had
but found our credit worse there, than
in France— A Gentleman here offered
me a credit for a million of Livres, but
it was when explained on the following
conditions— I must produce direct
authority from the Congress, with
their promise of Interest— All Amer-
ican vessels must be sent to his
address— & untill this could be
secured him, I must provide a
credit or in other words a security
in Europe, here you are desired

my negociation ended — I then contracted for
the Supplies of the Army & rewarded into Portugal
as large a proportion of Woolens as I well could
sensible that with them you might do something
& hoping your remittances might still arrive
as some intelligence of the situation of your
affairs, for I thought I judged rightly that
if within six or seven months you were
unable to send out one third the Re-
mittances, the returns must be equally
difficult on this ground I have been
anxiously waiting to hear something
from you, mean time I shipped forty
tons of Salt petre, two hundred thousand
pounds of powder via Martinique, one
hundred barrels D.o via Amsterdam
The late affair of Long Island & which
I had intelligence in October & the
enemy

Evening of New York, the report of
Carleton's having crossed the Lakes
& that you were negociating has ab
solutely ruined our credit with the greater
part of Individuals, & finding so little
prospect of compleating the Indian Goods,
I have attended the closer to dispatch
the Supplies for the Army, for which
I had obtained a credit ostensibly
from a private person, but really
from a higher Source meanwhile
The Monies remitted are in Mr. Delaps
hands, except what I have drawn on
for my private expences, for paym
of the last Fleet, for the fitting out of

Morgan, for the equipment of certain Officers going to America — for the 200,000 lb of Powder Mr. Delap is my Surety consequently should he receive nothing more from you, he will have no considerable ballance, in his hands could I have received but one half the amount in any season; I would have ventured on the Goods long before this but to what purpose would it have been, could I have been credited the amount, if you were unable to remit? The same obstruction must exist against their arrival I am

however at last promised the Goods
on credit, by the same way as the Store
have been procured, I hope to ship
them this month, but some of the
Articles, are not manufactured, any
where in Europe except G. Britain & them
must be substituted in the best
manner I can, I have wrote Mr. Delap
to send you his Account also to send
the particulars to me which I will trans-
mit as soon as received. The Goods
may be expected in the month of
February — mean time I pray you,
not on this Account only, but on
others to exert yourselves in recruit

so much as to support the credit of the Continent, for which I am now engaged to a very great amount — Tobacco, Rice, Flour, Indigo, Peltry, Oil, whale fins, Flaxseed, Spermaceti, Masts & Spars &c are in good demand Tobacco 8 9 to 10 Jous ℔ & rising free of duty or expence save a Commission — Rice 30 Livres ℔ C Flour 22 to 24 Livers — I am most respectfully, Gentlemen, Your most Obed.t & very Humble Serv.t

Signd. Silas Deane

P. S. When I say Tobacco, is free of duty, I mean if sold to the Farmers general directly, on other conditions it is inadmissible at any rate.

New York. —
July 5th 1781 Examined & compared the preceding Copy of a Letter with the Original, which is lodged in the Treasury of the United States, & do hereby certify that the same is a true Copy. —

Samuel Osgood

Dear Sir Pa. & Ches. (No 23) Dec 8. 1776

My Son Major Parker will deliver you this, I expect in his way to New York to join his Regiment, he has till this time, ever since the disbanding the second Regim.; been afflicted with a tedious and most dangerous illness; I have no doubt of your shewing him every civility in your power, and I have as little doubt of his evincing every mark of respect to you & regard for his Country.

I should not have missed writing to you by every post, but the distance I was from the Rider, the close attention I have paid to the draft of the Works, and the delaying of the Rider in setting out a day sooner than he used to do before the alteration of the post day, by which all our letters lose a post, add to which my not being able to give you full satisfaction with respect to the Works, has hither to kept me from it. I can now with pleasure inform you that I have finished one, as I think in a very compleat manner, and a fortnight Work will put the other in the same State, however this must be deferred until the Spring of the year. I have not the least doubt but that they will answer Expectation. The whole Works occupy more than three Acres of ground and are so secured from the tides and every other accident that I am convinced there is nothing to fear on that score. Not being acquainted with Work of the kind I was greatly deceived in my Expectation of getting it compleated in a short time. However it would have been done much sooner could I have got my timber in time; In near five Months, during which time I have been engaged about it, I have not been with my family twelve days. So great a desire had I to accomplish so necessary a Work which I conceive will bring such advantages to the State

None of the other Works except one of Stebbings are in a very forward: Resp: indeed I have heard the other Directors have done nothing at all, and two of them in Assembly are raising clamours against the Measure declaring his impossible to make Salt by Evaporation. Those are Simpson and Wells. I am inclined to believe his because they are unable to execute their Works either from ignorance or too great attention to their own affairs. I am convinced ~~that~~ that had my Works been erected where Simpsons ought to be, I could make at least 16.000 Bushels of Salt annually. In a day or two I shall set off to Williamsburg and am in hopes shall be able to prove to the Satisfaction of the Assembly that error may be expected from Works well executed.]

Thursday ago was at Stratford and have the pleasure to tell you I saw the young ladies of that family well indeed Miss Harriott has been ill but is now recovered. Miss Parton who has a cold told me she had wrote some time ago informing Mrs Lee of Miss Harriotts illness. I hope she will not be alarmed for I assure she is running about & very lively, she has not yet got her colour – Miss Nancy has a little breaking out in her face, but in as high health as you can conceive & as wild as a doe. Please offer my Compliments to your Lady & believe me

Yours assured friend & Servt

Richd Parker

Dec. 5th 1776

V6325

(1123)

Richard Peters
Dec. 5th 1776

(No 352.)

No 352.

Philadelphia

Henry Laurens Esqr.

Richard Peters

Favored by
Mr. C. Parker

Dec. 5. 1776

Dan. Roberdeau

(No 124)

Dec 6th 76

My Dear Brother

I must own to you that I cannot avoid some uneasiness at the late manoeuvres & success of Howe. He avails himself greatly of those advantages which the water gives him to puzzle, distract & divide our forces. I dont like the small force of 6000 with Washington, whilst no more than 10000 remain on the other side. Does the number of 16000 make up the whole force of our grand army? As little comfort can I draw from that damned tory militia you mention. Militia bad at best, can deserve very little confidence in such a state.

However as you dont appear to be alarmed, I do not altogether despair.

I almost inclined to begin a long story, but as it is a foolish one I hesitate. Yet seeing it is also a very wicked one I will proceed, as it may be profitable to know how thoroughly who can be the contrivers of such tales. Soon after the return of Edmund Randolph from Philadelphia C. Braxton gravely reported upon the authority of the young man that an act of Piracy had been

been committed on the open sea by an Eastern Privateer on a American vessel coming from Nants loaded with goods for the Continental acct which goods were taken on board by an order from the President of Congress as appeared by Mr Hancocks letter produced by the merch.t Capt.n & the commander of the Privateer; that it afterwards became a question in Congress whether this Pirate should be punished; that the New England delegates all supported this villain, & on a division of our Delegates, you & our brother, were on the Pirate side, Harrison & Wythe on the opposite, Nelson being then absent: & in fine that a majority of Congress suffered this knave to go free, & enjoy the fruits of his crime. During this recital which raised in a full company as Mr Campbells the simple, the honest, & the ingenuous Mr Speaker of the Delegates appeared greatly amazed, & shocked at such enormous profligacy, & entertained not the smallest doubt of its truth. In short this solemn farce ended with a Toast of detestation to the Congress.

Mr Randolph being afterwards interrogated by a gentleman, knowed, to write the gentlemans own lively description, white, & blue, & green, & red, his visage lengthening extremely; & swore he was abused, egregiously misrepresented. He went immediately with this gentleman, Mr Mabzee, to the Lobby, & had Braxton called

called out, who being exposulated with said he had
misunderstood him, & retired to the house with all
the marks of a confounded, detected, self condemned
villain. We have discovered since that the Speaker
intended when a certain bill came in to make use
of this story to prove that the Congress merited no
confidence, or esteem, & that it would be improper
to let an appeal lye from the provincial Admiralty
However his courage has failed him, & the matter
ends in confusion on the heads of these
despicable wretches. Young Edmund, being told
that Banister was of the company, mentioned the
affair to him who answered he there was such a
thing said but no body believed it. Metzer observes
thus to Randolph, "My friend there are a pack
of damned, crafty, profligate knaves, you are young
let me advise you to keep on your guard against
them; they care not who they sacrifice provided
they may gratify the damned, malignant, deadly
hate which they bear to all the friends of liberty
& virtue. Banister tells you no body believed it, &
yet you are certainly informed that they drank
reformation to the Congress, — Lay these things
together, — how do they fit my friend? — So far
Metzer. I have tired you with a tedious story
& the dinner being now on the table prevents
me from teazing you longer. Adieu,
Dec.r 6th 1776. Thos. Lud.r Lee

(No 124)

Thos Ludwell Lee
Dec. 6th 76
(No: 214)

No 214

Richard Henry Lee Esq.
a member of Congress
Free
Philadelphia

6th Dec. 1776
Thos. Ludwell Lee Esq

Dear Sir (№ 125) Wmsburg Decem.r 6. 1776

I have y.r obligeing favr. of the 25.th of Novemb.r & am sorry to find Our Affairs have taken so unlucky aturn, as to have lost New York & the Enemy in a Progress, too promising of success, to the American Capitol. surely even the Quakers & other back friends will defend their City at this crisis, General Mifflin I hear is with you & can do much w.th his fellow Citizens. Our horse are Ordered to March, & money now lyes to the recruiting Officers who we are told will raise the men fast, but I fear too late for the present crisis. we shall repay ourselves out of your money when it arrives. Our loss of Iron men & Stores is a sad shock, & I suppose the Provisions convenient to the Enemy. It may be necessary now to be shut w.th Forces, but am inclined to think the Pensylv.a Convention did mischief by drawing the reins too tight formerly. Mr. Mann Page of Mansf. is elected a Delegate to Congress in the room of Mr. Wythe.

I am D.r Sir Y.r affect.e Hble Serv.t
Edm.d Pendleton

1776

Dec: 1776

Jno. Pendleton

To

Richard Henry Lee Esqr

Free

Phil.a

(No 125)

No 300

1720 300. 1

Copy of general Washington's orders to Col Donop written on that Commander's arrival at Bordentown from Donop's taken. [illegible]

Quarter general Trenton 12 Dec 1776

[illegible] Colonel de Donop

Monsieur Vous devez commander les troupes qui seront cantonné a Trenton, Bordentown, Burlington, Vous ferez vos rapports et recevrez les ordres du general Major Grant de Brunswick, et vous communiquerez avec le brigadier general [illegible] Pennsylvanie.

La brigade de Hesse, composée Chasseurs, et [illegible] Grenadiers seront postés a Trenton avec six canons chasseurs de 3 liv. ~~[illegible]~~ de 12 liv les Grenadiers seront relevés tous les huit jours, de Pennsylvanie.

Trois Bataillons de Grenadiers hessois, [illegible] Detachement de Chasseurs, avec six canons hessois de trois livres, et, si on a [illegible] deux canons anglois de 12 liv. seront postés a Bordentown.

Un bataillon de Grenadiers hessois avec [illegible] qui le 12me regiment, deux canons hessois de 3 liv: blancs trois de 12 liv: avec 2 Howitz: [illegible] et deux [illegible] de 3 liv: composeront [illegible] a Burlington. [illegible]

listes précises des bestiaux, des grains et des fourrages, dont vous aurez la bonté de faire former des Magazeins pour la Subsistance des troupes, le Capitaine Camble, Quartier Mr Général en donner les quittances, lequel demeurera sous vos ordres pendant l'hiver, et tout qui sera dépensé en conséquence sera payer par le Commissaire général, par conséquent, vous aurez soin que les rations fournies, n'excedent point celles qui sont accordées aux troupes.

Les Troupes soigneront pour le bois et la Chandelle pour cet effet le Berrack maitre leur fournira sans gratification, il en agira de même a l'egard des meubles des Casernes en cas qu'on s'en livre point; les hautes les Dieces etas seront livrées de Brunswick

La quantité de provisions saisies ou de foin une quelconque, qui excede celle que l'on juge necessaire pour la subsistance d'une famille ordinaire sera regardée

comme un Magasin ennemi destiné pour le Roi, vous donnez aux troupes comme une épargne pour le public.

Le Rum et le Sel sera d'abord envoyé pour les troupes sous vos ordres si pourtant il se trouve dans votre voisinage une quantité de l'un ou de l'autre vous informerez le General Grant afin d'épargner l'embarras et la depense du Charriage.

Ayez la bonté de diminuer autant que possible le nombre des Chevaux des officiers, renvoyez également autant des Tentes des regiments que possible. Vous pourrez encas de marche vous épargner d'un certain nombre de Chariots, vous pourrez également les louer, en cas de besoin en donnant des quittances pour le nombre des jours qu'ils seront employés les quelles seront acquittées par le Quartier Mr general.

W. Howe

Extract of a Letter from John Ross to Silas Deane dated Nantes Jan.y 28.th 1779— "If any more Ships be fitted out in this kingdom, I beg it may be on a different plan from Nicholsons, on seeing the Accounts will amply shew the necessity of it"— Jonathan Williams Nephew to D.r Franklin & partner with Mr. Deane was the setter out, yet this Scotsman wished to supplant him.

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Bethelem 17 Dec.r 1776
Sunday.

Dear Sir

after much difficulty & pains
I have removed all the sick to
Easton Bethelem & allentown — their
number is now much reduced and
all in a good way — I send 20 or 30
weekly to join the army. —
There is no pay master or General
near us & I am almost out of cash,
must therefore beg the favor of you
to procure me 5000 Dollars & send
them by y.e bearer Dr. Halling for the
use of the Hospitals, you will please
to give a receipt for me &c —
Mrs. Shippen & y.e children arrived safe
on Thursday morning & are happily
settled in this peaceful Town. —
I have not heard of my cloaths & old
Wine Jear y.e Varlets have them
as secure as poor Gen.l Lee. Oh! —

What a damned sneaking way of being
kidnapped, I can't bear to think of it.
I saw all his Troops, about 4000, this
morning marching from Easton,
about 2 days march from Washington
in good spirits & much pleased with
their General Sullivan — General
Gates with 900 marches from this
place y. afternoon & tomorrow. We
hear Gen. Heath is within 4 days
march w. 3000 — God send that all
joined may save Philad.a & Virginia from
y.e cursed Tories this Winter.
Where are your good Ladys, my
love & best compliments to them &
desire they will take care of them-
selves least our retrograde Soldiers
will run them down. — I wish you
would introduce a new Step into your
army & am sure they are perfect
in y.e Cadence by this time.
Yours very affectionately
Comp.ts to Gates & Co. W. Shippen Jr

Dear Sir Shippen
17th Dec. 1776

Shippen

Dr Sir Lewis
Col. Lee's Regiment Engaged
from the Continental Congress
Philadelphia

By Dr Talbot. —

1.

Phil.a dec.r 20th 1776

Dear Sir

With a heavy heart I sit down to write to you at this time as the unfortunate case of American affairs at this period have worn for my own mind of a true friend to this country — I am now the only Member of Congress in this City except Mr Walton of Georgia & Mr Clymer my colleague the remain, which I am not sure of — I cannot pretend to give you a regular detail of our many sad misfortunes because my Books & Papers are all gone into the Country, as is my Family — But these unfortunate Events commenced with the loss of Fort Washington for by the reduction of which the Enemy made about 2700 prisoners, at this critical time, they by Treachery Bribery or accident intercepted some dispatches from Gen.l Washington to Congress also some of the Generals private Letters, particularly one to Gen.l Lutledge in which he badly laid open the unfortunate situation he was then involved in by the small short inlistments of our army, for the times of most of them expired on the first of Dec.r & the rest on the 1 of Jan.r, when the whole army would leave him, as they had undergone great fatigue during the whole Campaign

had suffered amazingly by sickness and the approach of Winter added an appearance of starving for want of cloathing — all these things he states fully, & the Enemy became possessed of a most authentic account of our real situation — they determined to take the advantage of it, and before Gen Wash had time to make any new arrangements at Fort Lee, on the west side of the North River to which he had crossed with about 3000, a large body of Troops landed above & another below him, so that he was near being enclosed with a Force vastly Superior — in this Situation he had nothing left for it but to retire directly off the neck of Land on which that Fort stands, leaving he lead him considerable Baggage & Stores with most of our large Cannon & Mortars — he retreated to Hackensack & was there in hopes of making a stand untile the militia of the Country should come to his assistance, but the vigilance of the enemy did not give him time for this — they pursued and he retreated all the way thro the Jerseys to Trenton — from thence they forced him across the Delaware, where he still remains to oppose their passage across the River — Lord Cornwallis commanded the British forces in the Jerseys untile they reached Brunswick where Gen Howe joined them with reinforcements determined to make his way to this City, without further loss of time — you may be sure the Militia of N Jersey & this State were call'd upon to turn

act & defend their Country in this Hour of distress
~~and also~~ also our internal Enemies had by various arts
& means frightend many disaffected others & caused a
general Panic to prevail over the minds of almost
all men, not before actually engaged in the war—
Many are also exceedingly disaffected with the
Constitutions form'd for their respective States, so
that from one cause or other no force could be raised
out to oppose the march of an Enemy thro' the heart
of their Country: and it was with the utmost difficulty
the Associators of this City could be prevailed
on to march against them — at length however it has
been effected — they have been up with the Genl
about two weeks & the campaign at length is like
to produce its effect in the Country, as they are now
pretty generally on their march towards Trenton
During Genl Washingtons retreat thro' the Jerseys
he sent for Genl Lee who was left to command on
the East side of the N River with about 10 to 12 m
men most of whose inlistments are now expired or near
it — he obeyed the Summons & brot with about 3000
men, with those he followd the Enemys rear, but was
obliged to make slow marches as his people were
in great want of shoes, Stockings & other necessaries
which he was obliged to collect from the Parts in the
neighbourhood of his Route — after he had passd a place
call'd Chatham near Elizth Town, he lodged at a Farm
House, last night was a Week some Rascally Villain
gave notice to the Enemy of the Generals ill state

or some other cause I am not acquainted with detachment there while near 10 o'Clo on Friday morning his army having marched their near about 3 miles from him, when he was surprized by about 70 of Florence who made prisoner of 1 man & bore him off in Triumph — this is an event much to be lamented & sincerely sorry do I feel for the loss my Country sustains — his abilities had frequently been immensely useful — the want of them will be severely felt The Command of this party devolved on Gen Dickinson who continued his Route, fell in with Gen Gates with 500 men returning from the Lakes, and both joind Gen Wash.tn Yesterday — This junction is what we have long impatiently wish'd for, but still I fear our force is not equal to the Task before them, & unless that Task is performd (Phil.a nay I may say Pens.a must fall — The Task I mean is to drive the Enemy out of N Jersey for at present they occupy Brunswick Princetown Trenton Penny Town Burdenton Burlington Morris-Town Mount Holly & Hardenfield — having their main Body about Princetown & strong detachments in all the other places — it is supposed with a design of attacking this City whenever they can cross the Delawar on Ice, for they have only been kept from it by our rendering up the Gondeloes &

but off or destroy'd all the boats along the Jersey
Shore — you will think the Enemy are now in a
Situation for us to attack their scatter'd parties, &
cut them off — this we think too, & are preparing to do it
but it will be a work of extreme difficulty to get
at them — they have excellent intelligence of all our
motions — we can hardly come at any certainty about
their — for Lord Howe & Gen.l Howe issued a proclama-
tion on the 30th Nov.r offering pardon to all who
should submit within 60 days, & obtaining a Decla-
ration that they will not hereafter bear arms
ag.st the King's Troops nor encourage others to do it
this has had a wonderfull effect, and all Jersey or
for the greater part of it, is supposed to have made
their Submission and subscribed the declaration
required, those who do so, of course become our
most inveterate enemies, they have the means
of foreigning intelligence & they avail themselves
of it. in this perplexing situation of things the
Congress were informed this Day week that an
Advanced party of Hessians & Highlanders had
taken possession of Burlington, that they were
pushing for Coopers Ferry opposite the City and it
was thought had the means of crossing the River
here was no troops to oppose them our whole
force both by Land and water was above, it
was therefore deemed unsafe for the Congress to
remain here & absolutely necessary that they
should be in a place of safety where they could
deliberate Coolly & freely without interruption & last

Saturday they adjourned to Baltimore where they are now sitting — this City was for ten Days the most scene of Distress that you can conceive every body but Quakers were removing their families & effects and now it looks dismal & melancholy — the Quakers & their families pretty generally remains, the other Inhabitants are principally sick Soldiers, some few effective ones and General Putnam who is come here to throw up Lines & prepare for the defence of the place if Genl Washington should be forced to Retreat thither — you may be sure I have my full share of trouble on this occasion but having got my family & Books removed to a place of safety my mind is more at ease and my time is now given up to the Public altho' I have many thousand Pounds worth of effects here without any prospect of saving them —

We are told the British troops are kept from plunder but the Hessians & other foreigners looking upon that as the Right of War plunder wherever they go from both whigs & tories with Distinction & horrid devastations they have made on Long Island. New York Island, Staten Island & New Jersey being the only parts they have yet set foot on, should they get this fine City, they will be satiated, if the Ruin of thousands worthy Citizens can satisfy their avarice) — this is not the only —

part of the Continent that now feels the weight
of their Resentment; Gen. Clinton with from
3. to 6000. men has invaded Rhode Island
and it is said has taken possession of it,
whether he will make any attempts on the —
Main during this severe inclement season
I do not know but if he does I hope he may
find cause to repent it, I must add to this
Gloomy Picture one circumstance more
distressing than all the rest because it threatens
instant & total Ruin to the american cause
unless some radical cure is applied & that speedily
I mean the Depreciation of the Continental currency,
the enormous Pay of our army the immense expence
at which they are supplied with Provisions, cloathing
& other necessarys and indeed the extravagance
that has prevailed in most departments of the public
service have called forth prodigious emissions of
Paper money both Continental and Colonial, our —
internal Enemies, who alas are numerous & Rich
have always been undermining its value by various
artifices and now that our distresses are wrought
to a Pitch by the success and near approach of the
Enemy they speak plainer & many peremptorily —
refuse to take it at any rate — those that do
receive it, do it with fear & trembling and you
may Judge of its value even among us there
when I left you that £25o. Continental money
or 666. 2/3 Dollars, is given for a Bill of Exchange
of £100. Sterling 16. Dollars for a half

Johannes. two paper Dollars for one of Silver
3. Dollars for a pair of shoes. 12. dollars for a
hat, 1/2 Dollar for a pound of Butter & so on. a
Common Labourer ask two Dollars a day for his
Work & Eats half his time. all this amounts to
real Depreciation of the money. the War must be
carried on at an Expence proportioned to this —
Value which must inevitably call for immense
emissions & of Course still further depreciations
must ensue — this can only be prevented by borrowing
in the money now in circulation. the attempt is
made & I hope will succeed, by loan of
Lottery. the present troubles interupts those
measures here & as yet I am not informed
how they go on in other States — but something
more is necessary — force must be inevitably
employed & I dread to see that day — we have
already Calamities sufficient for any country and
the measure will be up when one part of the
american People are obliged to dragoon
another. at the same time that they are —
opposing a more powerfull external foe — for
my part I see but two chances for Relief — one is
from you — If the Court of France open their
Eyes to their own Interest and think the Colonies
of North America will compensate them for —
the Expence & Evil of a War with Britain
they may readily create a diversion & find us
Succours that will change the face of affairs

but they must do it soon — our Situation is critical
& does not admits of Delay — I dont mean by this,
that instant submission must ensue if they do
not directly afford us relief — but there is a great
difference between the Benefits they will derive
from a Comercial Connection with this Country in
full health & Vigour & what they can possibly
expect after it is exausted by repeated Efforts
during the precarious process of a tedious War —
during which its Cities will be destroyed the
Country Ravaged, the inhabitants reduced in
Numbers, plundered of their property and unable
to reap the Luxuriant produce of the finest
Soil in the World, neither can they after a Tedious
Delay in negociation, expect that Vigourous
assistance from us in prosecuting the War,
that they may be assured of; if they Join us in
the Infancy — If they Join us generously in the
day of our distress without attempting undue —
advantages because we are so, they will find a
gratefull people to promote their future glory
& interest with unabating Zeal and from my
knowledge of the Genius of this Country with
Europe I dare assert that whatever European
Power possesses the preemption of it, must
of consequence become the Richest & most —
potent in Europe — But alas should time be
lost in tedious negociations & succours be
withheld, America must sue for peace from

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der expresson — our people knew not the hardships
& Calamities of War when they so boldly dared —
Brittain to arms, every man was then a Bold
Patriot, felt himself equal to the contest and
seemed to wish for an opportunity of evincing his
prowess, but now when we are fairly engaged
when Death & Ruin Stare us in the face and
when nothing but the most intrepid Courage
can rescue us from Contempt & disgrace, Sorry I
am to say it, many of those who were foremost
in Noise, Shrink Coward like from the Danger
and are begging pardon without Striking a
Blow — this however is not general but —
dejection of Spirits is an epidemical desease
and unless Some fortunate event or other gives a
turn to the disorder, in time it may prevail
through out the Community, no event would give
that turn so soon as a Declaration of War
on the part of France against Great Brittain
am sure if they lose this golden opportunity
they will never have such another ——— you
will doubtless be surprized that we have not
made better progress with our Navy, because
you are unacquainted with the many dificulties
& Causes of delay that have encountered us.
the want of Sea Coal for our Anchor —
Smiths has been a great Bar to our progress,
the disapointments in our first attempts to bore
Cannons has been another, but above all the

have been hindered by the Constant calling out
of our militia in a manner that did not admit
of the necessary tradesmen being exempted, you will
wonder at this, it would be a long story to explain
the reasons therefore suffice that it is so, Doct.
Franklin can inform you many particulars
respecting the Flying Camp & can that will account
for it therefore I shall give you the present
State of our Navy according to the best of my
knowledge at this time —— The Frigate
in New Hampshire is a very fine Ship —
completed in every particular, but the want
of Cannon which was to have been cast in
Rhode Island, but the Spirit of Privateering
has prevailed so eminently there that they have
sacrificed every other pursuit to it both
publick & private as I am informed &
we have ordered the Guns cast in Connecticut
for that Frigate to be sent to Portsmouth
as soon as they arrive the Raleigh will be
manned & sail on a Cruize —— the Boston
at Boston they have also two fine Frigates
of 24. Guns I Expect is at sea before this
time commanded by Capt.a M.c Neil a very
clever fellow — the other is nearly ready —
commanded by Cap.n Manly —
at Rhode Island was built the two worst
frigates as I have been informed, by those —
that have seen the whole, these two are
compleatly fitted & was partly manned when

we last heard from there, so that I hope
they are now at Sea
at Connecticut the Frigate is said to be a
fine Ship but she cannot get to Sea this
winter for want of Cordage & other Stores
at New York two very fine Frigates are
blocked up by the Enemy and hauled into
Hoppers Creek for safety
at this place we have four very fine Ships
one of them the Randolph Capt. Biddle
of 26. twelve pounders will I hope go to
Sea in Company with this Letter — another
the Delaware Capt. Alexander is getting
ready & hope will get out this Winter — the
other two wants Guns, anchors & Men
at Baltimore is a fine frigate now only
waiting for an anchor & Men
Besides these we have in Service, the
Alfred, Columbus & Reprisal Ships from
16. to 24. Guns, the Brigs. Cabot, Camden
Andrew Doria & Lexington of 12. to 16.
Guns, the Sloops Providence, Hornet, Fly,
Independance, Vixen & Schooners Wasp
Musquito & Georgia Pacquet all in actual
Service, and they have had great success
in taking valuable Prizes as indeed have
numbers of Privateers from all parts of
America, we have beside, two very fine

Rowe Galleys built here of 90 feet keel but they are not yet rigged, and it has lately been determined by Congress to build some Line of Battle Ships & to push forward & pay the utmost attention to an American Navy — the greatest Encouragement is given to Seamen which ought to be made known throughout Europe — their pay in our Navy is 8 Dollars per Month with the best chance for Prize Money that ever was & liberty of Discharges after every Cruise if they chuse it — in the Merchant Service they now get from 30. to 40. Dollars P. Month and this Leads me to the State of our Commerce in the Eastern States they are so intent on privateering that they mind little else however there is some Exportation of produce from thence & as to imports they are the best supplied of any part of America having been more successful in Captures — New York being in the hands of the Enemy we have nothing to say to it and the produce of New Jersey will be totally consumed by their army and ours, in this State we had last year the worst Crop of Wheat ever known both as to Quantity and Quality, this being our Staple Commodity & - Flour prohibited our Merchants have been led to purchase much Tobacco in Maryland & Virginia and their Ships are employed in the export of this Article with some flour, Beef, Pork &c. Tho' we have a good many Imports but few as a good arrival they are brought up for the

Army or for the use of Neighbouring States and
therefore continue to bear high prices —
the Value of Ships has risen in the same
proportion with every thing else & Ships that were
deemed worth £1000. twelve Months ago now
sell for £3000. or upwards — every article
belonging to them is also exceeding Dear, hard
to be got & the insolence and difficulty of
Seamen is beyond bearing — In Maryland,
Virginia South Carolina & Georgia they have
plenty of valuable produce on hand but no
Ships to carry it away & constant Cruizers all
along the Coasts makes it very dangerous to Send
Ships from one port to another; so that look
which way you will, you find us surrounded with
Difficulties in the Land Service in the Sea Service
& in our Comerce — Agriculture and Mechanicks
have their Impediments by the enlisting of
Soldiers & frequent Calls on the Militia — in
short nothing but the most arduous
exertions & Virtuous Conduct in the Leaders
seconded by a Spirited behaviour in the Army
and a patient endurance of hardships by the
people in General, can long support the
Contest, therefore the Court of France should
strike at once as they will reap an immediate
harvest, they may sell their manufactures
for any price they please to ask, they will
get in payment Tobacco, Rice, Indigo, Deer
Skins furs wheat, flour, Iron, Bees wax,

Lumber, fish, oil, whale Bone, Pot & pearl
Ashes and various other articles and if they
please here is an ample field to employ their
shipping & raise Seamen for their Navy, but
they must put in for this treasure now or
never — I will not enter into any detail of your
Conduct in Congress, but you may depend on
this that so Long as that respectable body
persist in the attempt to execute as well
as to deliberate on their business it never
will be done as it ought & this has been
urged many & many a time by myself &
others but some of them dont Like to —
part with power or to pay others for
doing what they cannot do themselves —

I have your favour of the 30th Sept.
to myself now before me, the Letter by
the same conveyance from Martinico under
Cover of Mr. Bingham I sent down to
the Commitee at Baltimore & wrote them
my mind on the Justice of your complaints
for want of intelligence I had often told
them
it to Congress before, you know well I was
now put in that Commitee to carry on
the Correspondence — how to find out the —
conveyances, however I have been obliged
to write all the Letters that have been

wrote for some time past but as soon. See
Mr. Hooper & the Rev.d Dr. Weatherspoons
are now added to the Committee, I shall
excuse myself from that task altho' I have
thought it proper to give you a just state
of our affairs at this time because I do
suppose the Committee will not be got fairly
into their Sessions at Baltimore yet while &
when they do it is probable they may not
be fond of laying things before you so —
fully as I have done — Some of us are of
very sanguine complexions and are too —
apt to flatter ourselves that things are not
so bad as they appear to be or that they
will soon mend &c now my notion is that
you Gentlem.n Commissioners should be fairly
& fully informed of the true State
of affairs that you may make a proper
use of that knowledge keeping Secret what
ought to be so & promulgating what should
be known — you will shew this Letter
to Doct.r Franklin for whose safe
arrival my best wishes have often gone
forth and I embrace this opportunity of
assuring him of the High Respect & Esteem
I entertain for him — Pray beg my Comp.s

to M.r Lee if he is with you, tell him I have the Commission in which he is nominated already to send but it is gone into the Country with my papers or I would send it by this Conveyance ——— My own affairs necessarily detained me here after the departure of Congress and it is well I staid as I am obliged to set many things right that would otherways be in the greatest Confusion; indeed I find my presence so very necessary that I shall remain here until the Enemy drive me away I am D.r Sir Your Obed.t Serv.t

R. M ———

I am now arrived at the 8.th of January 1777. without having had any opportunity of dispatching this Letter, as there are constantly 6. or 8. Sail of the Enemies Ships cruizing in our Bay and of the Capes when they have taken many of our inward bound vessels & effectually blocked up all those we have in this Port — this detention affords me the pleasure of giving you a detail of what has passed since the 20.th Dec.r when the above was written & — that is God the picture will be more ——— pleasing to you as the Reality has been to me

You'll observe in my former narative the
Enemy posted at all the little Towns & Villages in
New Jersey that afforded them good quarters, ready
however to form an attack ag.st this place whenever
the Ice should afford them a Bridge across
Delaware — I then gave it as my opinion, this
was a favorable disposition to attack them in
it's Gen.l Washington thought so too & —
meditated a heavy blow ag.st them — such it would
have proved had this plan succeeded intirely & such
has proved that part in which he did succeed —
Orders were given to Gen.l Cadwallader
posted at bristol with this (city's association)
to Gen.l Ewing with a body posted at Trenton
Ferry, to cross Delaware on christmas night
when Gen.l Washington himself crossed —
about 9 miles above Trenton with about
2,500. & instantly marched them down for this
place in two Divisions by different Roads,
his design was to surprize the Garison
in this place before daylight, but the weather
being extreamly cold, the Ice in Delaware
retarded his boats & they did not reach the
Scene of action untill 8. o'clock but as they
were attended by a more severe N.E. East —
storm of hail rain snow & wind, the —
surprize was compleat — there was 1. Regim.ts
of hessians commanded by Colonel Rhol —

Station here - their advance guards made some
Resistance to our advance parties & alarmed the
main body time enough for about 3 or 400 Dº to
Light their horse that were here also to get over
Treniton Bridge & make off - the remainder
had drawn up, but both Divisions of our
Army coming on them at the same time
by different Roads they surrendered, there
was 918 Prisoners that thus surrendered with
the Colours of the 4 Regim.ts 6. field pieces
and Considerable Bagage & Stores, those
that made off by way of the Bridge would
have been taken by Gen.l Ewing could he
have Crossed at the Ferry, but the Ice was
so fast & that place is so dificult when there
is Ice that it was not possible as he did all
that Men could do to get over, therefore some
but not the whole of the flying party did -
escape, many have been taken since & our
Prisoners from that Expedition amount to
1100. or 1200. Colon.l Rhol died of his -
wounds & some other officers were killed with
about 20. privates, we did not lose a
Man & had only Capt.n Washington & two
Privates wounded ——— General Cadwallader
got over about 1000. men of this party two
the Ice made so fast on him that he could

not get over the artillery nor the Remainder of his
Force & was obliged to bring back those that had
crossed — his object was to have Surprized the Brit-
ish Troops Early & then to have marched up the
River whilst Genl Washington marched down
that they might Surround all the Troops Cantoned
at Burlington Bordentown & their Vicinity — this
plan was well Laid & had not the Ice prevented
would have been well Executed — Genl Washington
finding those Material parts frustrated & knowing
the Enemy's Strength to be vastly superior to
that with him at Trenton recrossed Delaware
& brought off the Hessian Prisoners, field pieces,
Stores &c — However he found himself in a few
Days reinforced with a good many of the Militia &
determined to follow up the Blow he had struck
— he crossed again to Trenton — ordered Genl
Cadwallader to cross at Bristol and directed Genl
Putnam to forward from this Place all the
associators, Militia & others troops that he
could muster — the Enemy were exceedingly
alarmed by what had been done to Trenton
& broke up their Quarters in all the parts of
the Jerseys below that place, marching with
precipitation back in the Country towards
South Amboy — but at Cranbery they Received
orders & filed off towards Brunswick — during
this time General Howe was at the Reinforce-
ments he could from Newyork & Rhode Island — Genl —

Washington was Collecting his whole force at Trenton the
Enemy were doing the Same at Brunswick — on the
the 2.d Instant our Army was Collected and had Conce
some plan of operations when Intelligence was bro
that the Enemies Main Body were on their March
attacks them at Trenton — Gen.l Washington
a Brigade under L.d Sterling to amuse them with
with the rest of the whole army (that Brigade excepte
the Bridge of Trenton & took post on the Heights
this side the Creek that runs thro' that Place
posted his artillery advantageously and waited the
Return of Lord Sterling's Brigade, which meet
Enemy & kept up a warm fire against them
retreating from about one o'clock until Sunsett
they entered & Marched thro' Trenton — the
crossed them very hard & killed near 100. of them
at the Bridge which they attempted to cross, but
as our own people were over the compliment was
return and equal, if not a greater slaughter, made on
them — they were Broke & retired — each army then
mounted their Guards within 100. yards of each o
& a bloody battle was expected the next day — Our
people posted that part of the Town where the
small number of houses Stand & they had not Co
ficient therefore they made large fires to
on Wars for the weather was severely Cold & they
thy cloathed — Gen.l Washington had recd intelig
the Enemies Numbers & found them superior to his own
y consisted of Regular troops, under good Discipline
ll cloathed & excellently armed, His were chiefly —
ilitia, badly armed, ill provided with cloathing &
ouitements, under no discipline & very few of them
d ever seen a Gun fired in anger, behold him in
this most critical situation and Consider the Consequ
a Gen.l action — the only regular Troops he
with him had a right to go off because the Terms
their Enlistment expired the day before, if those dawdle
the Militia would have been dispersed & most

thing one had that happened it would be impossible ever to
ren together again. If he gave battle or waited to be
ed he could not promise himself the least chance of Succe
ing beaten his army would instantly disperse and leave him
Prince at the mercy of the Enemy — The Boats with
hes proper Delaware were above Trenton on the
Jersey Side and it was impossible to cross, if he
ated towards Bordentown the Enemy were invited to
ow & his Raw Troops would be totally dispirited, whe
t this time every man thought himself a Cæsar. Thus
ounded with difficulties and dangers attended with consequenc
ible to think of. He determine to Strike a bold Stroke
might discomfit the Enemy and gain him time to draw
elf in a better posture — he knew there was at Prince
a party of not more than 2000. men with Hessian
& Bagage, that at Brunswick was the Chief of
ores & Bagage but badly guarded he called a
il of the Genl officers told them his Situation and
oved decamping and by a forced march thro' the
wood round Trenton to Surprize Prince Town in the
orning — this was agreed to and orders given accordingly
12. o'clock the whole army was in Motion not
knowing where they were going and a guard of about 500
en left at the Bridge, totally ignorant of this movemen
(except the Commanding officer) the Fires had all been
made up afresh before the march & the entire bagag
the army sent off for Burlington so that few of
Soldiers took with them even their Blankets — the
never discovered this Movement nor did our own Guard
the Bridge untill the morning, when our army had passe
dern head on their March to Princetown some Troops post
at Maidenhead saw them & dispatched advices to Princetown
preparations were made for receiving us — about a Mile
off on this side that place the Enemy had taken post very
advantageously; consisting of three Regim.ts of British, Go.
Broken Hessians & highlanders & a small party of Light
se, & horse, a small action ensued between them & our
advance Party, in which both sides exemplified great —
ry every one the Enemy were forced to give way to superio
numbers, with the Loss of 50. or 60. Killed as many wou
ded 140 prisoners — our Army pushed on took possessi
Prince Town with some field pieces, 100. oxen a num
Sheep, a quantity of blankets, Bagage & Stores, killed here
some more of the Enemy & made more prisoners — the whole loss
on this occasion supposed to amount to about 60

[illegible] The General's original design was to stop
Brunswick also, for his troops were totally unfit either
to undertake any new Exploit or to sustain another action
a great part of the militia had been constantly on duty
for near 36 hours during which they had never eat down
or slept in a manner to afford them the least refreshing

The Enemy's army at Trenton under Command of
Lord Cornwallis did not miss our army for some time
as our guard at the Bridge gave 'em a famous
before they went off, but when they found Genl. Mercer
had decamped and heard the firing towards Princetown
were in the utmost Consternation & immediately made
hastily march after them, Genl. Washington knew the
weak Enemy & not being in a condition to face them
in some Bridges to impede their March to
the other side of [illegible] Town [illegible]
from thence he marched to a place called Blue Anchor
thence to Morris Town where he was resting and refreshing
his troops the 7th Instant for Dam now at the G.
and have just received dispatches from him. Lord Cornwallis
anxious for the Safety of Brunswick pushed for that
place & now Genl. Howe is collecting all his force that
was scattered in New Jersey
Washington at the same
Papers by Generals Heath
numbers I don't know — I think Genl. Howe's
force in New Jersey does not amount to more
8000. men, he has lost in killed wounded and taken
above 2000. Since Christmas & our loss in attacking
this consists in Genl. Mercer dangerously wounded
Colonel Haslet & Potter killed a few other inferior officers
and there with all the Privates will not amount to
100. men — these Feats have turned the Scale
Militia of this Place Maryland & Jersey begin to
turn out & think themselves good Soldiers but this
winter Campaign is very severe on their being in
indifferently provided as to the inclemency of the Weather

they know their Enemies are warmly clothed and
well provided, however they have stood it surprizingly
since the 25th — the Eastern States are also turning out
& seem bent on driving the Insurgents of Rhode Island
and it is also said they have a design to attack New
York whilst we keep them employed in New Jersey,
thus you see the face of affairs is greatly changed from
I began this Letter, but the Campaign is not yet —
finished; I wish it was, because Congress have not
taken very spirited & effectual measures to render our
Army and arms more formidable, by the extensive
powers they have vested in Genl Washington and I
now but regret his want of Leisure to begin a
negotiation that is extremely necessary indeed, they
have given power to raise 8 officer 16. Bat. of
Infantry more than formerly ordered also 3000
Light horse, a fine Corps of artillery & Engineers
& as this whilst we have Strength & are exerting
let France join us & she will be well seconded
and supported, but if fresh importations of foreign
Gut throats are permitted to come over our Men
will be wasted, our Finances exausted, and France
lose the Glorious opportunity of assisting the oppressed
& gaining the advantages of a Commerce that has
made great Brittain to a Degree that astonishes her
Enemies Europe — Measures are taking to reestablish
the credit of your money which I doubt not will be
attended with success, but you must exert yourself
to procure us timely aid in this virtuous Struggle
in which we seek only to keep what belongs to us
& maintain those rights which God gave, Great
Britain long confirmed but would now ingloriously
deny us of — I am now at the 29th Jan.y without
having had an opportunity to send away this very long

Letter our River having been fuke of Ice since the
9. or 10th Inst. however there is now an appearance
of its becoming free again & several vessells with a
pushing out at the? The Men of war still keep down
above the Capes & I fear will do us much mischief
taking inward bound vessells - but this we cannot help
unless France will send us a fleet of Line Battle
Ships & then we will teach him better manners
Genl Washington still remains at Morris Town
with his Troops cantoned or rather posted 20 m.
Brunswick in such a manner as to teaze and
the Enemy extremely, they possess no ott
of New Jersey at this time - then Brunswick
Amboy & the communication between them - no
they want forage they are obliged to send out
large parties and always meet some Loss, as
never a Day passes but we take some prisoners, in
& wound some of their Men and our people have take
from them a Number of Waggons, Horses, Cattle, other
Bagage &c. it is a sad thing to depend on
for the defence of a Country as we find by ex
our people go out but for a short time &
Genl Washington's army is literally shifting ev
Joining and some leaving them so that it is ha
him to know his own strength and he never rem
in this disagreable situation until the new cartri
are completed, thanks God they are going on ne
now, as our late successes have given
springs to the service - Genl Howe has abou
Men at Brunswick & he has ordered a Reinf
from Rhode Island where the new Englan

[illegible] ready to attack the Grenadiers — he shall leave them
[illegible] Health for [illegible] down toward New York with
the body of Waldeck & [illegible] Jews Brigade & taken
[illegible] pendance with 400 Prisoners we have reason
to [illegible] were he has retaken Fort Washington & that
[illegible] by may expel the Enemy from New York —
[illegible] the face of things is totally changed, the
[illegible] of the Whips is up, the Tories hide their heads
[illegible] is regaining its [illegible] but cost so [illegible]
[illegible] ; this can only be effected by your procuring
[illegible] assistance of a fleet to protect our Trade
[illegible] we get plenty of goods the money will
[illegible] prices decline — I have
[illegible] & [illegible] for
[illegible] of delivering you a Letter from the
[illegible] of Correspondence & this Letter also, the
[illegible] for a considerable time back by his
[illegible] Letter to my brother respecting the [illegible]
[illegible] Capt. Beck after he has delivered his
[illegible] in which I hope for your concurrence &
[illegible] will become a party concerned — I have
[illegible] a Copy of your Letter of 17. Sept.
[illegible] he many occasions for the Staple
[illegible] of the Stores
[illegible] Dr Sir &

Rob.t Morris

Deane Esq.r

Dear Sir Sen. & L. Ser. (No 126) Wmsburg Decr the 20th. 1776.

You can not conceive how much our Cause suffers for want of a constant & speedy Conveyance of Authentic Intelli=gence from State to State. I hoped the late Resolution of Congress respecting the Posts would have remedied this Inconvenience but unhappily it has not been carried into Execution. The Tories propagate what Lies they please to invent & it is often long before we can contradict them; seldom before they have made a bad Impression some where. Many People here were greatly alarmed at the Letters which it is said you & Col. Harrison wrote by the Post. I have not yet seen them & seem to think all is Lost. But I am sure your Letters & I suppose Col. Harrisons, could never convey such an Idea. for the Loss of every Town in America must be but a small Loss compared to all. Some People I fear wish all was Lost that. Excuse my saying no more at present as I am called on & interrupted

I am D. Sr. ys affectionately

John Page

(No 328.)

No 328

Phila.d June 20. 1776.

Inclosed is a Letter from an Officer of Genius by birth a German who has served in Russia & Hanover several campaigns called upon me a few hours ago, and after producing certificates of that he now holds a Captains commission under the Empress of Russia gave me the following information in confidence. He says that he is personally acquainted with many of the Hessian Officers & Privates now in How's army - that as they are for pay only he thinks the bounty - pay & clothing offered by congress is much above what they now enjoy that if they were properly extended to them they would leave us with more cheerfulness than the King of Britain - He offers to go in person into How's army, at the risk of his life, and is sanguine in

to think he could immediately bring us
200 recruits with him. He demands contin-
-ental money only to pay the bounties. in
-If he fails, he will return the money. He very
-pretty objected to taking gold or silver as it might
be useful to them in How's camp. I submit
these hints to your consideration. I am
bound to inform you that the Captain
(who from his certificates is a Baron) is a
very modest, and prepossessing
& address of a gentleman. He ad-
in the course of our conversation that he
had many warm friends in Russia, &
that a majority of that nation expressed
a dislike at the thots of being employed to
fight against us. He thinks there is no
probability of any troops being procured for
that quarter next Summer. If you
think the above scheme practicable, I plan
to mention it in confess - If I am at a-

for what to advise ~~you~~ in the affair. At
any rate communicate your opinion
on the determination of Congress to M^r
Philip Boehm in Philad^a who will
communicate it to the Baron. If he
is encouraged he will wait upon Congress
& receive his instructions from them.

We are much blamed by the Ships
and ridiculed by the tories for leaving Philad^a
so suddenly. all the back counties of Philad^a
are in Motion. Several hundreds of the militia
join Gen Washington daily. (Mr Galloway - &
three of the Allen family have received
absolution at Trenton. Gen Putnam sent
a guard to apprehend Mr Dick - a yesterday
~~for misconduct~~ the cause of it you will soon hear ~~the~~ of
~~him~~. He has escaped. I refer you to
Mr Saml Purviance for particulars. I have
a thousand things to say to you. Vigor - firmness

& Quicker measures are more necessary than ever. Disputes lessen, & do more in congress as we are undone. Compt to your brother & the worthy members of the weekly club. I am on my way to ~~Lord~~ Bristol, being summoned to attend the Philad[a] militia for a few weeks. Yours sincerely Benj[a] Rush.

P.S. I need not suggest to you the propriety of secrecy if the Baron's scheme is adopted.

Dr Rush
20th December 1776.

1776

From a tedious experience I have learnd what is necessary in a military Hospital and think it my duty to give my opinion thereon to my friends in Congress. — I have attended to this matter more carefully because I saw on my first entering the army that many more brave americans fell a sacrifice to neglect & iniquity in the medical department than fell by the sword of the enemy. I saw Directors but no direction, Physicians & Surgeons but too much above their business, & the care of the sick committed to young boys in the character of mates quite ignorant, & as I am informed hired at half price. &c &c. Some I found honestly doing the duty of their station. — How far my own department has been better filled does not become me to say: & I am not ashamed to own that I am conscious of many imperfections, but flatter myself none of them have arisen from want of

of care & integrity in ye Director, or skill and
industry in his Physicians Surgeons & Mates
all the latter he can with pleasure declare have
done more ~~than~~ than their duty chearfully
Some have arisen from my inexperience
some from the scarcity of many articles
necessary for ye sick, & more from the
distracted flying state of our Army.
all these causes perswade my self will
in a great measure be removed in the
next campaign, if our cruel enemies
will be hardy enough to resque another
I would humbly propose the following
arrangement as necessary & I hope adequate
to making the sick soldiery comfortable
happy. — Suppose three armies. a
Northern Middle & Southern. To each of
these. the following officers.

One Director & Surgeon genoral a 35/ 18 Rat
Three Sub or assistant Directors - a 22/6 & 6 Rat
Ten Surgeons or Physicians - a 20/ & 4 Rat
both being in one in ye Country. —

20 Mates — a 7/6 & 2 Rations
1 Apothecary gen.l a 20/ & 4 Rations
4 Mates —— a 7/6 & 2 Rations.

1 to act as Quart.r M.r & Commissary gen.l a 12/6 & 4 Rations
3 Deputys one to every 100 sick a 7/6 & 2 Rations
1 Steward to every 100 sick a 5/ & 2 Rations
1 Matron to Do. —— a 3/9. & 2 Rations
1 Ward master to Do. —— a 5/ & 1 Ration
1 Nurse to every 15 sick — a 10/ P Week
instead of 1 to every 10 a 7/6. They are not to be had 7/6.
1 to act as secretary & Storekeeper to
every Hospital —— a 7/6 & 2 Rations
——

The Director general and Sub Directors to be chosen by the congress. —
The Physician, & Surgeons & Apothecarys by the Directors.
The Mates by the Physicians & Surgeons after a strict examination. —
all other officers by the Directors. —

Not less than this in my opinion will induce men properly qualified to engage & any others will be dear at any price. —

I have the honor to be D.r Sir,
Your very humb.e Serv.t W Shippen

No Regimental Hospitals will be now necessary

To every Regiment should be appointed by the Congress after being examined & recommended by the Director Physicians & Surgeons of the Hospital or by 3 or 4 of the first eminence in any State, appointed by that State for the purpose—

1 Surgeon — d 12/6 & 4 Rations p Diem

2 Mates — d 6/3 & 2 Rations —

To be supplied with 1 Case of amputating & Trepanning Instruments, 1 Case of Pocket Amputating Chest of Medicines as the Director shall think proper.

Boston 20 Decr 1776.

Ls. S. Sta. 34 Dec 20 1776

As the fortune of war hath thrown a worthy officer into the hands of the United States

Resolved that General Washington be directed to send a flag to General Howe to know if Major General Lee is entitled to the treatment of a prisoner of war, and to request of him, that as the fortune of war hath made Major General Lee his prisoner, that he cause that Gentleman to be treated with the civility due to his rank, and to his eminent personal merit. That taking from General Lee his parole as has been the constant practice of both countries since the commencement of this war, when no improper conduct hath marked the character of captive Officers during their captivity. Also to know of General How if permission will be granted to send General Lee such supplies of money as may be necessary to support him during his confinement in a manner suitable to his rank in the Continental service ——

(See Journals of Old Congress, Dec 20th 1776. (II. 468.)

Resolutions Gen. Lee Colonel Reid.

Resolutions Gen. Lee

Congress being informed that ~~Colo. Weibert~~ a Mons.r Weibert
a French Gentleman and a Colonel in the Continental
service who was lately made prisoner in Fort Washington has
been committed to ~~prison~~ close confinement contrary to the ~~usual~~ usage of civilized
~~nations~~ nations no improper conduct hath marked the character of
captive Offices Resolved that Gen. Washington be directed to
send a flag to General Howe and remonstrate against this
severe treatment of Colonel Weibert, and desiring to know of
General Howe whether he means to ~~grant~~ enlarge Colo. Weibert ~~him~~ on
his parole, or ~~not~~ whether the United States are to consider this
~~as~~ established mode for the treatment of Officers on both sides
whom the fortune of war shall place in captivity.

Honorable Gentlemen Baltimore Dec.r 21.st 1778 263

After expressing our hopes that this will find you all three safely joined at Paris, we proceed with pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Deanes letter of the first of October — When we reflect on the character and views of the Court of London, it ceases to be a wonder that the British Ambassador and every other British Agent, should use every means in their power to prevent European powers, but France more especially, from giving America aid in this war. Prospects of accommodation, they well knowen, would effectually prevent foreign interference, and therefore, without one serious design of accommodating on any principles but absolute submission on the part of America, the delusive idea hath been industriously suggested on both sides the water, that under cover of this dividing and withholding proffer the real British force sent to America might have the fair oh chance of succeeding. This policy hath in fact done considerable injury to the United States as we shall presently shew by a past detail of this unnatural Campaign, for it is not yet ended. Terms of Accommodation You know Gentlemen that at the moment a potent Lord and marine force was preparing to be sent here, an Act was passed for appointing Commissioners with too many unexpected powers to give peace to America. As therefore the war might be also soon concluded, so were Military arrangements accommodated, and the Troops taken into service the last Spring, consisting of regular Corps and bodies of Militia, were still all engaged for short periods With these the Campaign began in various parts of N. America — As Canada Dr Franklin is so well acquainted with the progress of the War in Canada previous to his departure, that we need only observe that the Campaign has ended as favorably for us in that quarter as could reasonably expected. The very great superiority of Water force with which Genl. Carleton at Quebec Champlain having given him a victory over our small fleet, occasioned the General to collect all his force at Ticonderoga where having strongly fortified himself The enemy having — General Carleton still kept close within. The enemy having been able to proceed no further than Crown Point, where, after a short stay, and reconnoitering our Generals army at Ticonderoga they thought proper to retreat to the Lakes and leave us in quiet possession of those posts. The General having left Gates having left a proper force at Ticonderoga

on the communication intercepted with the rest of his Troops
New York & its neighbourhood, not being defensible against a strong
Land and sea force acting in conjunction, was of necessity yielded to the
enemy after some contest, General Washington retiring until the situation
of the Country above Kings bridge no longer enabled the enemy to
receive aid from their Ships. Gen. Howe being stopt here, and
Gen Carleton at Crown Point effectually disappointed the great
object of joining the two Armies. The Latter as we have said
returning to Canada, and the Enemy
retreating from the White plains towards N. York — Their Army
Collected gave us a favorable prospect of seeing a happy end put
to this dangerous Campaign — However, many causes have concurred
in producing an unluckey reverse of fortune. The nature of the
Country, the uncommon fineness of weather even to this day, and above
all, the short inlistments, which gave the Soldiery an opportunity of
going home, tired as they were with the operations of an active summer
have conspired to frustrate the consequences
When Gen. Howe retreated from the White plains he halted his whole
Army on the N. river between Dobbs ferry & Kings bridge where he
remained for some time. Having effected so little of the great
business that brought them here, and the season allowing time
for it, most men were of opinion that the next attempt would be
to get possession of Philadelphia, by a march thro the Jerseys whilst
a Fleet should be sent up the Delaware to facilitate the enterprize.
To guard against such a Manoeuvre, Gen. Washington crossed
the N. River with all the Batallions that had been drawn to the
westward of it, leaving Gen. Lee with the Eastern Troops to
guard the pass of the Highlands on Hudsons river — In this
situation of things, Gen. Howe made a sudden attack on
Fort Washington with the greatest part of his Army, and
carried it with a considerable loss — There he made near 3000
of our men prisoners — By this event, it became unnecessary
longer to hold Fort Lee, or Fort Constitution as it was formerly
called, which is on the west side of N. River and nearly opposite
to Fort Washington. It had been therefore determined to
abandon Fort Lee, but before the Stores could be
all removed the enemy came suddenly upon it, and the
Garison retreated, leaving some of their baggage &
stores behind. About this time Gen. Howe became possessed
of a Letter (by the Agency of some wicked person who contrived
to get it from the Express) written by Genl Washington
to the Board of War, in which he had given an exact account
of when the time of service of all our Batallions would expire
& his apprehension that they knew not when to vanish with the
first going home to see their families & friends. Possessed of this
intelligence, the favorable opportunity was carefully watched, and
a vigorous pursuit was actually made at the very critical time when
our Army in the Jerseys was reduced to 7000 men by the expiring of
numbers, and the absence of others, and before Militia could be
in this extensive Country be brought up to supply their places.

The enemy marched rapidly on thro the
Jerseys

Honourable Gentlemen. (№ 26) Baltimore in Maryland 21 Decem.r 1776

After expressing our Hopes, that this will find you all three safely fixed at Paris, we proceed with Pleasure to acknowledge the Receipt of Mr Deane's Letter of the 1st October — When we reflect on the Character & Views of the Court of London, it ceases to be a Wonder, that the British Ambassador, and all other British Agents, should employ every means, that tended to prevent the European Powers, but France more especially, from giving America Aid in this War — Prospects of Accomodation, it is well known, would effectually prevent foreign Interference, and therefore, without one serious Design of accomodating on any other Principles, but the absolute Submission of America, the delusive Idea of Conciliation hath been industriously suggested on both Sides the Water, that, under Cover of this dividing & dis-withholding Prospects, the vast British Force, sent to America, might have the fairest Chance of succeeding; And this Policy hath in fact done considerable Injury to the United States, as we shall presently shew by a just Detail of this Campaign

You know, Gentlemen, that, at the Moment a Potent Land & Marine Force was preparing to be sent here, an Act was passed for appointing Commissioners, who, too many expected, were to give Peace to America — As therefore the War might be soon concluded, so were our military Arrangements accomodated, and the Troops taken into Service the last Spring, consisting of regular Corps, & Bodies of Militia, were all engaged for short Periods — With these the Campaign began in various Parts of North America — D.r Franklin is so well acquainted with the Progress of the War in Canada, previous to his Departure, that we need only observe, the Campaign has ended as favourably for us in that Quarter, as we could reasonably expect — The Enemy, having been able to pierce no further than Crown Point, after a short Stay, and reconnoitring Gen.l Gates's Army at Ticonderoga, thought proper to recross the Lakes, and leave us in quiet Possession of those Passes — Gen.l Gates, having left a proper Force at Ticonderoga, and on the Communication, retired with the rest of his Troops —

N York

Letter
(N° 26) from Secret Commee
to
The Comrs
(21 Dec' 1776.)

1777

New York, & it's Neighbourhood, not being defensible by an Army singly against a strong Land & Sea Force, acting in conjunction, was of Necessity yielded to the Enemy after some Contest, General Washington retiring, until the Situation of the Country above Kingsbridge no longer enabled the Enemy to recieve Aid from their Ships - Genl. Howe having stopped here, & General Carlton at Crown Point, effectually disappointed the great Object of joining the two Armies, the latter, as we have said, returning to Canada, and the former retreating from the White Plains towards New York, gave us a favorable Prospect of seeing an happy End put to this dangerous Campaign - However many Causes have concurred in producing an unlucky Reverse of Fortune, the Nature of the Country, the uncommon Fineness of the Weather, even to this day, and above all the short Inlistments, which gave the Soldiers an Opportunity of going home, tired as they were with the Operations of an active Summer When Genl. Howe retreated from the White Plains, he halted his whole Army on the North River, between Dobbs's Ferry & Kingsbridge, where he remained for some time - Having effected so little of the great Business, that brought him here, and the Season allowing him time for it, most Men were of Opinion, that the next Attempt would be to get Possession of Philadelphia by a March through the Jerseys, whilst a Fleet should be sent up the Delaware to facilitate the Enterprize - To guard against such a Manœuvre, Genl. Washington crossed the North River with all the Battalions, that had been raised to the West-ward of it, leaving Genl. Lee to guard the Pass of the Highlands on Hudson's River - In this Situation of Things Mr. Howe made a sudden Attack on Fort Washington with the greatest Part of his Army, and carried it with considerable Loss; here he made near 3000 of our Men Prisoners. By this Event it became unnecessary longer to hold Fort Lee, or Fort Constitution, as it was formerly called, which is on the West Side of North River, nearly opposite to Fort Washington - It had therefore been determined to abandon Fort Lee, but before the Stores could be all removed, the Enemy came suddenly upon it, & the Garrison retreated, leaving some of their Baggage

and

and Stores behind ~ About this time Genl Howe became possessed of a Letter (by the Agency of some wicked Person, who contrived to get it from the Express) written by Genl Washington to the Board of War, in which he had given an exact Account, when the Time of Service of all our Battalions would expire, and his Apprehensions, that the Men would not reinlist, without first going home to see their Families & Friends ~ Possessed of this Intelligence, the Opportunity was carefully watched, and a vigorous Impression actual made at the very Crisis, when our Army in the Jerseys was reduced to 3000 Men by the Retiring of Numbers, and the Sickness of others, and before Militia could in this extensive Country, be brought up to supply their Places, the Enemy marched rapidly on through the Jersies, whilst our feeble Army was obliged to retreat from Post to Post, until it crossed the Delaware, at Trenton where about 2500 Militia from the City of Philadelphia joined the General ~ Since Genl Howe's Arrival on the Borders of Delaware, various Maneuvres & Stratagems have been practised to effect a Passage over the River, but they have hitherto failed ~ Genl Washington's small Army is placed along the West Side of Delaware from above Coryell's Ferry to within 14 Miles of Philadelphia, which, with the Gondolas, one Frigate of 32 Guns, and other armed Vessels in the River above the Chevaux de Frize, cover the Passage of it ~ Genl Lee (who had crossed the River with as many of the Eastern Troops, as could be spared from the Defence of the Highlands, either to join Genl Washington, or to act on the Enemies Rear, as Occasions might point out,) was the other day unfortunately surprized, and made Prisoner by a Party of 70 Light Horse, who found him in an House a few Miles in the Rear of his Army with his Domesticks only ~ This Loss, though great, will in some degree be repaired by Genl Gates, who, we understand, has joined the Army commanded by Genl Lee, and which, we have Reason to think, now by this time effected a Junction of his Force with that of Genl Washington

As the Militia are marching from various Quarters to reinforce the General, if the Enemy do not quickly accomplish their Wishes of possessing Philadelphia, we hope not only to save that City, but to see Genl Howe retreat, as fast as he advanced, through the Jerseys ——

Genl. Clinton's, with a Fleet, in which, it is said, he carried 8000 Men, has gone from New York through the Sound; some suppose for Rhode Island, but neither his Destination or it's Consequences are certainly known to us — Thus, Gentlemen, we have given you a true Detail of the Progress & present State of our Affairs, which, although not in so good a Posture, as they were two Months ago, are by no means in so bad a Way, as the Emissaries of the British Court will undoubtedly represent them — If the great Land & Sea Force, with which we have been attacked, be compared with the feeble State, in which the Commencement of the War found us, with respect to Military Stores of all Kinds, Soldier's Cloathing, Navy, & Regular Force; and if the infinite Art be considered, with which Great Britain hath endeavoured to prevent our getting these Necessaries from foreign Parts, which has in part prevailed, the Wonder will rather be, that our Enemies have made so little Progress, than that they have made so much —

All Views of Accomodation with Great Britain, but on Principles of Peace as Independent States, and in a Manner perfectly consistent with the Treaties our Commissioners may make with foreign States, being totally abandoned, since the Declaration of Independence & the Embassy to the Court of France, Congress have directed the Raising of 94 Battalions of Infantry, with some Cavalry — Thirteen Frigates from 24 to 36 Guns are already launched & fitting, and 2 Ships of the Line with 5 more Frigates are ordered to be put on the Stocks — We hear the Levies are going on well in the different States — Until the new Army is collected the Militia must curb the Enemies Progress — The very considerable Force, that Great Britain has already in North America, the Possibility of recruiting it here within their own Quarters by Force & Fraud together, added to the Reinforcements, that may be sent from Europe, and the Difficulty of finding Funds in the present depressed State of American Commerce, all conspire to prove incontestibly, that if France desires to preclude the Possibility of North America's being ever reunited with Great Britain, now is the favourable Moment for

establishing

Establishing the Glory, Strength, & Commercial Greatness of the former Kingdom by the Ruin of her ancient Rival — A decided Part now taken by the Court of Versailles, and a vigorous Engagement in the War in Union with North America, would with ease sacrifice the Fleet & Army of Great Britain, at this time chiefly collected about N York — The inevitable Consequence would be the quick Reduction of the British Islands in the West Indies, already bared of Defence by the Removal of their Troops to this Continent — For Reasons herein assigned, Gent.ⁿ, you will readily discern, how all important it is to the Security of American Independence, that France should enter the War, as soon as may be, and how necessary it is (if it be possible) to procure from her the Line of Battle Ships, you were desired in your Instructions to obtain for us, the speedy Arrival of which here, in the present State of Things, might decide the Contest at one Contest at one Stroke — We shall pay proper Attention to what Mr Deane writes concerning Dr Williamson & Mr Hopkins, and we think, the ill Treatment, this Country & Mr Deane have received from these Men, strongly suggests the Necessity of invincible Reserve with Persons coming to France as Americans & Friends to America, whom the most irrefragable Proofs have not removed all Doubts about — The British Recall of their Mediterranean Passes is an Object of great Consequence, and may require much Intercession with the Court of France to prevent the Mischiefs, that may be derived to American Commerce therefrom, but this Subject has already been touched upon in your Instructions on the Sixth Article of the Treaty proposed to be made with France — As all Affairs, relative to the Conduct of Commerce & Remittance, pass through another Department we beg Leave to refer you to the Secret Committee & Mr Thomas Morris their Agent in France, for every Information on these Subjects — The Neighbourhood of Philadelphia having, by the Enemies Movements, become the Seat of War, it was judged proper, that Congress should adjourn to this Town, where the Publicks Business may be attended to with the undisturbed Deliberation, that it's Importance demands —

The Congress was accordingly opened here on the 20th. Instant — As it is more than probable, that the Conference with Lord Howe on Staten Island may be misrepresented to the Injury of these States, we do Ourselves the Pleasure to inclose you an authenticated Account of the whole Business, which the Possibility of Dr. Franklin's not arriving renders proper — This Step was taken to unmask his Lordship, and evince to the World, that he did not possess Powers, which for the Purposes of Delusion & Division, had been suggested — Mr. Deane's Proposition of Loan is accepted by Congress, and they have desired two Millions sterling to be obtained, if possible — the Necessity of keeping up the Credit of our Paper Currency, and the Variety of important Uses, that may be made of this Money, have induced Congress to go as far as 6 p Cent, but the Interest is heavy, and, it is hoped, you may be able to do your Business on much easier Terms — The Resolves of Congress on this Subject are inclosed, and your earliest Attention to them is desired, that we may know as soon as possible the Event of this Application — Another Resolve Inclosed will shew you, that Congress approve of Armed Vessells being fitted out by you on Continental Account, provided the Court of France dislike not the Measure, and blank Commissions for this Purpose will be sent you by the next Opportunity — Private Ships of War, or Privateers, cannot be admitted, where you are, because the Securities, necessary in such Cases to prevent irregular Practices, cannot be given by the Owners & Commanders of such Privateers — Another Resolve of Congress, which we have the Honor to inclose you, directs the Conduct to be pursued with regard to Portugal —

We have Nothing further to add at present, but to request, that you will omit no good Opportunity of informing us, how you succeed in your Mission, what Events take Place in Europe, by which these States may be affected, and that you contrive us in

in regular Succession some of the best London, French, & Dutch News Papers, with any valuable Political Publications, that may concern North America—

We have the Honor to be with great Respect & Esteem

Hon.ble Gentlemen

Yr. most Obed.t & very Hum.l Serv.ts

Berj.n Harrison (1726-1794)

Richard Henry Lee

Jno Witherspoon (1722-1794)

Wm Hooper (1742-1790)

P. S. The American Captures of British Vessells at Sea have not been less numerous, or less valuable than before Dr. Franklin left us— The Value of these Captures have been estimated at two Millions—

In Committee of secret Correspondence

Dear Sir, Near Bristol Decem 21. 1776.

Whenever I go I bear in my mind the small share of the weight of our dear country, which the State of Pennsylvania hath committed to my care. I wish sometimes to throw my mite into the coffers of the congress, but as this is impossible for the present I beg leave to suggest such things as have occurred to me in my passage thro' Philad[a] to this place, and submit it to your good sense to make any use of them you may think proper. —

I need not inform you of the general disposition of the people in & near Philad[a] to refuse continental money upon the late prospect of Gen[l] Howe's getting possession of the city. Gen[l] Putnam's threatening to confine such people as refused it, and declaring the debt for which the money was offered to be void produced only a temporary remedy against the evil people who had goods refused to sell them. and men who had money out at interest either refused to give up bonds &c or kept out of the way when continental money was offered for them. The Legislature of Pennsylvania took care to provide a remedy equal to the danger of the disease. I therefore recommend to every State to make a law not only to forfeit y[e] debt for which the

money is offered, but to fine the person who refuses it severely. This will be more effectual than imprisonment which from Custom is common for any penalties has now lost its infamy. The punishment in this case strikes directly at that principle in human nature which is the source of the contempt in which paper money has fallen - I mean avarice and a want of public spirit. I say dont let this be attended to our salvation hangs upon it. I tremble every time I think of the danger of a further progress of the depreciation of our money.

Connected with the above subject is the state of our loan Office. If possible let the resolution for the emission of five millions of Dollars be concealed. I hope it will be the last resolution of that kind that will appear on our Journals. If it is not the whole continent must complain of our injustice in allowing only 1/4 part for the money now deposited in the loan office, while we can give Certificates for demands that we shall pay it in hard money.

I have learnt from many people that two among others from New England Officers that the 4 Eastern states will find great difficulty in raising their Quota of men due to that excessive rage for speculating which now prevails in them among these. Many of the Continental troops now in our service, wait for the expiration of their enlistments in order that they may partake of the Spoils of the

West Indies. ~~Numbers~~. at a moderate computation
there are now not less than 10,000 men belonging to
New England on board privateers. the New England,
and the Continent cannot spare them. They
have a right at this juncture to their services
and their blood. ((omit between. The marks
now called home — suppose Commissions were
refused to private ships of war for 6
Months. suppose even the trade of the
whole were annihilated by the long
same space of time — would it not
fill our army — with soldiers, be
with seamen? It would be a substitute
freeing, and would leave to individuals
freedom of their wills. It must be done. We
have not fill our Army without it ((to this place We must
have an Army. The fate of America must be decided
by an Army. It must consist of 70, or 80,000 men,
and they must be fit for the field before the first
day of may next. —

since the captivity of Gen Lee a District has
crept in among the troops of ~~America~~ the Abilities
of some of our general Officers high in command.
They ~~are~~ expect nothing now from heaven taught
& book taught Generals. I hope in our next
promotions, we shall disregard seniority. Stevens
must be made a major General. He has Genius
as well as knowledge. Merit must not be neglected.
He has the confidence of the troops. — advice — Brig Gen

P.P. I suppose must take up the affair of our money wholly. He is a relation & connexion. Consult Speaker and Gen. Lee & Mr Madison - & in any case let me know your sentiments.

Yours &c

Edm. Randolph

Private

Richard Henry Lee Esqr

Member of Congress

at

Baltimore

(No 127)

Annapolis Dec 23. 1776
Monday Noon

Dear Sir

Last Night I received your Letter of Saturday. I am now with the Council of Safety. no application has been received by them from Congress. I this Moment received the enclosed from Mr Johnson. pray attend to the Contents. it is absolutely necessary to send Money. and to appoint a Paymaster. — and to recommend & make it to Washington and Montgomery Counties. respecting that the Militia are to receive Continental Pay and Rations, & ought they not to receive the same Bounty of Cloaths & Blankets as the Pennsylvania associators, and to a Months Pay advanced? —

I come up tomorrow. adieu

Your affectionate &
Obedient Servant

S Chase.

To R. H. Lee

Our Council of Safety will do every thing in their power. pray send the Recommend. immediately

No 51.

Samuel Chase 1766

Gen. Lee (10128)

Harewood Dec. 23d. 1776

Dear Sir

Mr. Monroe who will Deliver you this is a worthy Neighbour of mine, and who you will find worth making an Acquaintance with, for altho an Englishman you may be assured there is not a man in this Country more attached to the American Cause than himself— he brings a Letter to Congress the purport of which is to acquaint that body that hearing of the unhappy Situation of our Army, that the Militia (what can be spared of them) are disposed to give their assistance, provided it meets with the approbation of Congress, and they, during the time they stay in Service put on an Equal Footing with the Regulars as to pay &c. &c. the People in General are not able Equip themselves at this Season of the Year, therefore we shall expect some Money (to be punctually accounted for) paid for this purpose the time we think of Engaging for is till the last of March, I think if a Scheme of

this sort was adopted, for the Southern Colonies it might answer two good purposes the first that they would be Infinitely Serviceable on any Emergency. the Second that they would serve to keep the Tory Party in the middle Colonies in Order, upon the whole it appears clearly to me that unless some Vigorous Measures are Immediately persued that our Situation will soon become very Deplorable, Shameful to Reflect on Genl. Howe w.th his small Army marching (in a manner unmolested) through the thickly Inhabited Jerseys, if Virtue is lost in that quarter of the Continent, lett us search where it is to found & bring it to our assistance

you will Confer a very great Obligation on me to give me without reserve your candid Opinion of things in General by Mr. Sowse. if you think you can w.th Safety Communicate them

Mrs Washington Joins in love to you & Lady Sam D. Sir

Yr. Affectionate Hble. Servt

Sam.l Washington

No. 454

Col.o Richard Henry Lee

to

Jacob Hagerstown
James Nourse Esq.r Baltimore



Lee Smith Washington

(1/28)

Saml. Washington

2 letters

(No 454.)

In Congress October 23. 1781.

Resolved that the Secretary for the Department of Foreign Affairs be directed to write to the Ministers of France, Spain and Holland, requesting them to communicate to Congress such Intelligence as they may have received, or may hereafter receive, concerning the Negotiations for Peace, but not such as they have received or may hereafter receive, in Confidence.

That the Secretary for the Department of Foreign Affairs be directed to write to the Commissioners of the United States at the Court of Versailles, requesting them to communicate to Congress such Information as they may have received, or may hereafter receive, concerning the Negotiations for Peace, but not such as they have received or may hereafter receive in Confidence.

That the Secretary for the Department of Foreign Affairs be directed to write to the Commissioners of the United States at the Court of Versailles, requesting them to communicate to Congress such Information as they may have received, or may hereafter receive, concerning the Negotiations for Peace, but not such as they have received or may hereafter receive in Confidence.

That the Secretary for the Department of Foreign Affairs be directed to communicate to the Ministers of France, Spain and Holland, the Resolutions of Congress of this day, respecting the Negotiations for Peace, but not such as they have received or may hereafter receive in Confidence.

That the Secretary for the Department of Foreign Affairs be directed to communicate to the Commissioners of the United States at the Court of Versailles

(№ 139)

Dear Sir / Bristol Decem 25. 1776

My letter I fear will prove troublesome to you but I cannot help it. Your industry as well as zeal in the Service of your country encourage me to convey to you every hint that occurs to me to your knowledge — being well convinced that if you think them of importance, you will force the congress to attend to them.

The sufferings of our brave continental troops from the want of cloaths exced all description. I shall not give you or myself the pain of attempting to paint them. It becomes us to do everything to remedy them as much as possible, and guard against them for the future. For heaven's sake let it a standing order of Congress that no subject should be boarded

to come
there for three weeks, but what relates
to the cloathing and fitting of the
army. I am in hopes we have got
a sufficient Stock of woolens for the
present year - But what shall we
do for linnens? - Every Soldier in
the British army is obliged to have four
Shirts, and to shift twice a week. Clean
linnen is absolutely necessary to guard
against lice and Sickness. all the medicines
in the world will not make an army healthy
without cleanliness. Suppose an Applica-
tion is made to every man in America
for one or two of his own Shirts for the
benefit of the army? - The application I
am sure will be successful. Col. Griffin
informed me that had our Scheme for
cloathing the army with second hand cloaths

proposed three months ago in Congress been
adopted three fourths of the poor ragged
fellows whose time are now expired
would have reinlisted. Let nothing
prevent the execution of this Scheme but
a large Supply of new linnen which
I believe is not to be had. It would
tend greatly to preserve the health of our
army if each Soldier could have two
flannen Shirts instead of two
linnen ones to wear in wet
weather & in the fall of the year. But
I fear we have not a sufficient stock
of wool by us for that purpose. —

— Nothing new. Col: Griffin with
only 800 men keeps How's whole army
under constant alarms in New Jersey. He
has had several successful Skirmishes with

(No 129)

Item. One Militia who stood in daily call about for Arthur ——————

Yours Benj. Rush

7 Rush

Dear Sir (No 131) Philad.a Decem.r 24th 1776

I am much obliged by the extract of a letter from London of the 21st Sept.r which you have been pleased to favour me with and I fear there is but too much reason to suspect the generality of Scotchmen as our most inveterate Enemies in the present Contest but I do not believe the misfortune of the two Ships at Hamburg to be owing to any treachery The bills remitted to purchase the Goods at that place were many of them drawn by the Scotch Factors of Virginia & Maryland (for others could not be got) drawn on their principals in London & Glasgow, and I suppose these principals have been at the pains to find out what channells the bills passed through & have thereby traced out the purposes for which they were remitted. I saw the Act of the Stoppage of these Vessells some time ago & was very uneasy at it knowing the Importance of the Cargoes they went for, but

Still I have comforted myself with a firm dependence on the agent I sent to manage the matter, who, tho' a Scotch Man is a Man of strict honor, extreamly well versed in business & capable of extricating himself from difficulties so that I have at this Moment a firm reliance on receiving those Stores by some other Channell in the Course of this Winter, and believe me, if that Man deceives me I will never trust another but I think it impossible. I am exerting myself in your Service & will do every thing you wish in the business of the Secret & Marine Committee, My Compliments to your Brother & Friends as I am

D.r Sir Your Obed.t Hble Servt

Jn.o Morris

Mr Jon.a Hudson
writes me that he is desirous
of serving the Publick in such
Capacity as he can be most useful
he is an active diligent Man in business
and I believe a very honest one, I know you
like to employ such and if you serve him I
believe you will have satisfaction in doing it.

No. 1585

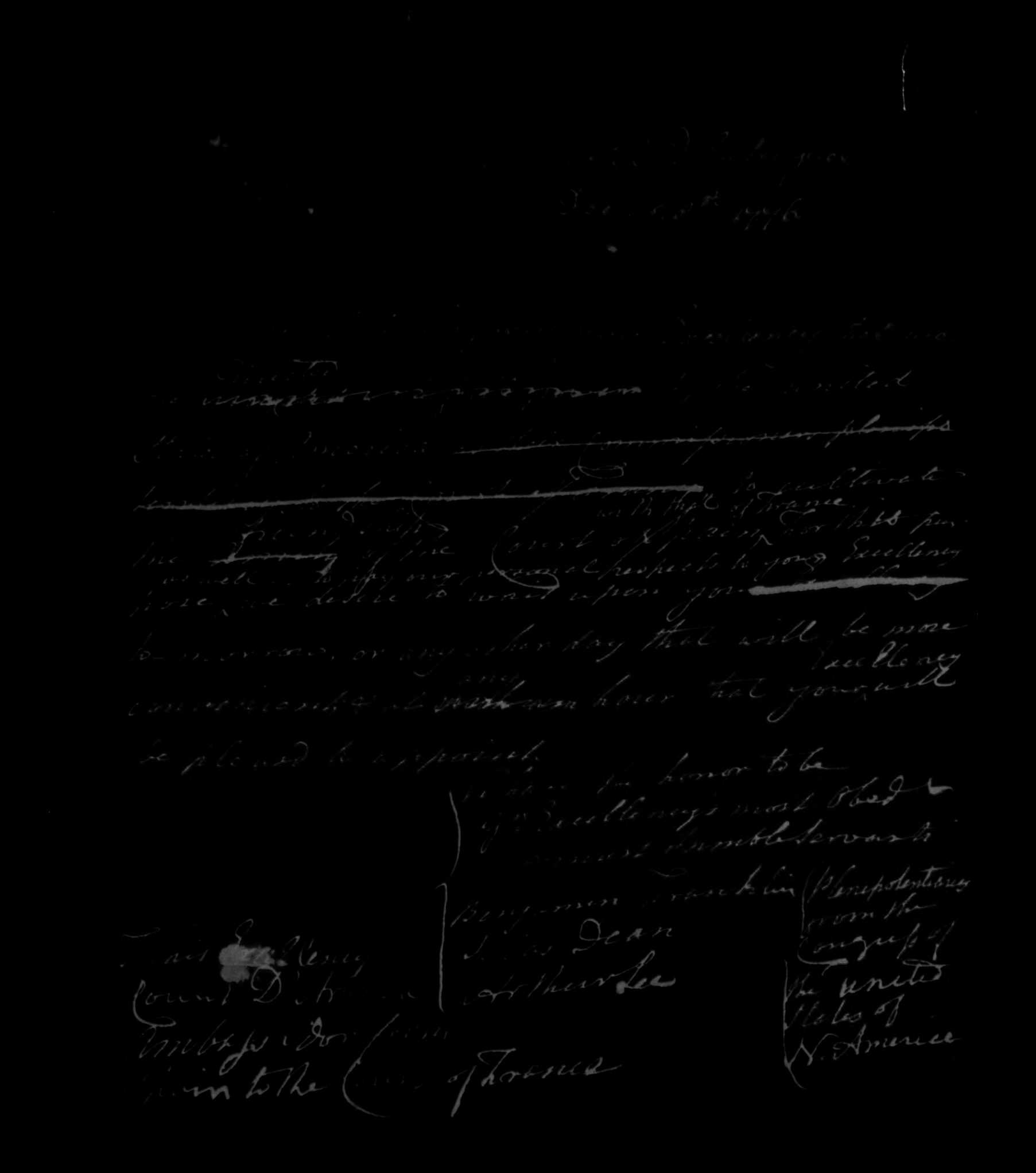
Paul Hyde
Rec'd Thanks Esq.

No. 282

(No 282.)

(No 130)

To
Richard Henry Lee Esq
President Congress
Baltimore



Dear Sir Copy & Rec (No 30) Virginia Decem.r 28.th 1776.

I have y.r obliging favr. of the 19.th and was glad to hear there was yet hopes that the City of Phil.a might be saved, for it grieved me much to think of that noble place falling into the Enemy's hands, notwithstanding the demerit of some of its inhabitants. I still hope to hear a considerable & seasonable reinforcement to the General from the back Country, has enabled him to battle their endeavours, and perhaps repaid them for their barbarity in the Jerseys. If the House of Bourbon mean to join us at all, I think it will be soon, lest the progress of the Enemy should make our connection less valuable by the destruction of our commercial Citys. A supply of woolens will be very agreable intelligence, as a dread of want in that Article seems to impede our inlistments, which however, I hear goes on tolerably. You'l have heard that besides our 18 Battalions we have ~~heard~~ impowered the Gov.r & Council to raise any number they can & which they may think necessary. I am

D.r Sir Y.r aff.te & hble Serv.t
Edm.d Pendleton

(No 130)

Dec. 20. 1779.
Dr. Randolph
No 301.

No 301.
1.

To
Richard Henry Lee Esq.
at
Baltimore
favd by
Mr. Galo.

Dec 29 1775

Sir,

Ever attentive to the ~~preservation~~ safety of ~~our~~ civil liberty ~~which~~ Congress ~~should~~ would not have consented to the vesting of such powers in the military department as those which the inclosed resolves convey to the Commander in Chief, if the circumstances of public affairs did not require ~~them~~ at this crisis which distance and numbers deny to ~~summon~~ assemble for removal from such other and from the immediate seat of war. The strength and progress of the enemy joined to prospects of considerable reinforcement = ment, have rendered it not only necessary that the American force should be augmented beyond what Congress had before designed contemplated, but that it should be brought into the field with all possible expedition. These considerations therefore ~~influence~~ ~~Congress~~ in request in the most earnest manner that the fullest influence of your State may be exerted to aid such levies as the General shall direct as consequence of the powers now given him, and that your quota of Battalions for merly first may be completed and ordered to head quarters with all the dispatch that the ~~federation of America~~ public good happiness can dictate. an ardent desire to promote ~~the~~ public good

Copy of Letter to the States

Dec: 29. 1776

Journal of Congress.

Dec: 28. 1776.

Resol'd that R. H. L. ds. Wilson & Ds Adams be a Com[te] to prepare a Let[r] to the several States, explaining the reasons which have induced Congress to alter the Powers of the Com[rs] at Washington

Ptt

Dear Sir (№102) Philad.a Dec.r 4th 29. 1776

I have now to acknowledge the Rec.t of your second Letter of the 24th Inst.o containing the quotation from your London Letter of the 21st Sept.r for which I am much obliged. The papers of the Secret Committee are sent away with my ac.ts I have now under care of one of my Clerks at Christiana Bridge but I very well remember, that the propriety & necessity of sorting the Tobaccos Shipped to Europe so as to suit the different Markets, struck me so forcibly that in one of the Committees Letters to my Brother he was desired to employ proper persons to Inspect every Cargo that arrived & sort it in the manner I have mentioned, this you remember if you think of it a little & then you'll see we have neither discovered ignorance nor inattention in this point. I should have been glad you had mentioned the Gent.n Name that you wish to have joined with My Brother in this business, I shall readily Consent to every measure that tends to promote the Publick Good but it is necessary you will agree that I know who is to be joined to my Brother in a business of this kind, and if the Man meets my approbation there will be no difficulty in agreeing on the measure. I wish the Secret Committee to buy the Ships you mention & hope they may be had reasonably, if the purchase is made there is Tobacco already bought to load them

I dont think you should undertake any fresh purchases at this time because great Numbers of our people that had Continental Money on hand have gone down to buy Tobacco. on the prospect of this City falling into the hands of the Enemy and I am fearfull they will raise prices, if we dont run Next purchase at this time it will assist in raising prices and if we remain quiet during the present alarm, we shall have an opportunity by & by of obtaining all the Tobacco now bought up on speculation as none of the purchasers can export it & they will either grow tired or fearfull of keeping it long on hand

I have borrowed a good deal of Money here for the Service of the Secret Committee & must draw some orders on them to repay it, therefore You'll please to be prepared for them drafts and I shall account for the Amount

You cannot conceive how I am vexed & Mortified to find after the deal of pains & trouble I have taken that the Randolph Frigate is still at the Pitts of Sea waiting in the River but the Officers of that Ship show great reluctance to go away without being compleatly manned & that is not possible, She might have been at Sea before now had they exerted themselves for that purpose but they have had constantly in view to wait for more Men, this has its foundation in a noble principle which

has hindered me from complaining to the Marine Committee, altho I have scolded the Officers like a Billingsgate for their dilatoriness; they say they wish to Fight & not to run, I tell them the Ennemy run until they can fight

There are a Number of Soldiers in the two New Eng. Regiments now with Genl Washington whose time expire with this Year & will not reinlist they are chiefly Fishermen or Seafaring People, and I have wrote the General to prevail on all that will not Continue with him to come down here to Man our Frigates, & they shall carry them home. I think a good plan as we shall by that means get our Frigates Manned for before they carry the others home they may pick up Seamen from Privateers I have little time left to remain

Dr Sir

Your Obed. Hble Servt.

Robt Morris

P.S.

I have just seen Mr. David Franks he says Doctr Lee & Arthur Lee Esqr. had quitted London

To

The Honble

Richd Henry Lee Esqr

Member of Congress

Baltimore

(No 283.)

Robt Morris to R. H. Lee

Dec. 29th 1776.

No 283

Dec. 29th 1776

(No 133)

Honorable Gentn

Baltimore December the 3d 1776

You will be pleased to receive herewith copies of our last Letter of the 21st
instant and of the inclosures which we recommend to your attention. Since that Letter was written Gen. Wash-
-ington has been reinforced, with by the troops lately commanded by Gen. Lee, and by some Corps of Militia, and has
crossed the Delaware with 6 or 7000 men and attacked a body of the enemy stationed at Trenton and with the success
that you will see related in the inclosed hand bill. We hope this blow will be followed by others, that may lea-
-ve the enemy not so much to boast of as they some days ago expected, and we had reason to apprehend —
Upon mature deliberation of all circumstances, Congress deem the speedy declaration of France, and Europ-
-ean assistance so indispensably necessary to secure the independence of these States, that they have authorized
you to make such tenders to France and Spain as they hope will prevent any longer delay of an event that
may be indeed so essential to the well being of N. America. Your wisdom we know will direct you to make such
use of these powers as will procure the things wanted, demand on terms as much short of the cession now offered
as possible, but no advantages of this kind are to be unemployed unimproved or the risk of a delay that may prove
dangerous to the end in view. It must be very obvious to the Court of France, that if G. B. should succeed in her
design of subjugating these States, that their inhabitants now well trained to the use of Arms, might be compelled
to become instruments in making a conquest of the French possessions in the West Indies; which would
be a sad reverse of that security, and commercial benefit that would result to France from the Independen-
-cy of N. America. By some accident, in removing the papers from Phil.a
to this place, the Secretary of Congress has mislaid the additional instructions formerly given you, by which
you were empowered to negotiate with other Courts than France. We think it necessary to mention this to
you, least the paper should get into wrong hands, and because we wish to have a copy sent us by the first
good opportunity. We observe that Mr. Deane sent his dispatches for this Committee open to Mr. Bingham
that we have a good opinion of that Gentleman, yet we think precaution too strong to be made acquainted
with the business passing between you and us, and therefore wish this may not be done in cases of much
importance. The next opportunity will bring you the determination of Congress concerning the Courts that
are to be sent to the Courts of Vienna, Prussia, Spain & the Grand Duke of Tuscany. In the mean time
it is hoped that thro the medium of the Ambassadors from those Courts to that of France, you may be able to procure
them friendly mediation for the purposes proposed by Congress. One of our Vessels of 20 Guns and 150 Men
Cabot Master with a Letter of Marque of 14 Guns
called the Hancock Ship of War of 12 guns and after a smart engagement the Ship was brought into the
Delaware — In our Letter we say the number of Seamen made by the Enemy at Fort Washington was near 3000, but
the number is find of 2600, and the number of Marine Gentlemen taken with Col. Rhea by our Cruisers of
Continental amounts to 250 — Wishing you health & success, we remain Honorable
Gentlemen &c.

1776
which our feebly Army was obliged to retreat from Post to Post
until it crossed the Delaware at Trenton, where about 2,000
militia from Philadelphia joined the General. Since Gen.
Howes arrival on the borders of Delaware, various ~~manoeuvres~~
and stratagems have been practised to effect a passage over the river
but they have hitherto proved abortive. Gen. Washington's
~~Army~~ small Army is placed along the West side of Delaware
from Coryell's ferry to within 14 miles of Philadelphia, within
the Gondolas, ~~with~~ one frigate, and other armed Vessels, in
the river above the Chevaux de frize, cover the passage of ~~the~~ Gen.
~~This~~ Gen. Lee who had crossed the N. river with as many of the
Eastern troops as could be spared from the defence of the Highlands
~~and who had orders~~ either to join Gen Washington or to act on the Enemies
rear as occasion might point out, ~~was~~ unfortunately surprised and
made prisoner by a party of 70 light horse, who ~~were~~ found him in a
house a few miles in the rear of his Army with his domestics only. This
(as the great will be in some degree be repaired for the present by Gen
Gates, who we understand has joined the Army commanded by Gen'l
and upon whose coming to which has by this time effected a junction of
his force with that of Gen. Washington. As the Militia are now marching
from various quarters to reinforce the General, if the enemy do not
quickly accomplish their ~~the~~ wishes of possessing Philadelphia
we hope not only to save that City, but to oblige Gen Howe ~~to~~ retreat
~~to~~ obliged to ~~retreat~~ through the Jerseys, where ~~he~~ will
as fast as he advanced thro' the Jerseys. Gen. Clinton, with a
fleet in which 'tis said he carried 8000 men has gone thro' the
Sounds, some suppose for Rhode Island, but his destination,
or its consequence we yet have no certainty of. Thus Gentlemen
we have given you a true detail of the progress and present state
of our affairs, which, although not in so good a posture as they were
two months ago, are by no means in so bad a way as the Enemies
of the Court of London will undoubtedly represent them. to ~~have believed~~
If the great ~~for~~ land & sea force with which we have been attacked,
be compared with the feeble state in which ~~we~~ the com-
=mencement of this war found us with respect to Military Stores of
all kinds, Soldiers clothing, and regular force, the wonder will be rather
be that our enemies have made so little progress, not that they have made
so much. All views of accommodation, but on principles of peace as
independent States, & in a manner perfectly consistent with the Treaties
our Commissioners may make with foreign States, being now totally at an end,
~~Congress~~ since the declaration of independency, and the embarkation
to the Court of France, Congress have directed the raising of
a Body of Infantry with some Cavalry, and we hear the Levies are going on well
in the different States. Until they are collected, the British must
curb the enemies progress. The very considerable force that G. B has already
in N. A. the possibility of procuring it here with their own Auxiliaries by force
and fraud together, added to the reinforcements that may be sent from
G. Britain & Europe, and the difficulty of sending Funds in the present
distressed state of American commerce, all conspire to prove encou-
=ragingly that France ~~never~~ desires ~~of~~ the
to ~~in~~clude ~~the~~ possibility of N. A. being

[illegible] reinstated with Great Britain, and thereby to [illegible] their
[illegible] addition to the force destined against them. There is the
[illegible] terrible engine for establishing the glory, strength, and commerce
[illegible] of Britain the former dominion of the seas is the main object of her present
[illegible] by the Court of Versailles
I decided fleet now at Brest by 32 sail, and a vigorous entry
the war in Union with N. A. would with ease sacrifice the fle
and Army of G. B. at this time chiefly collected about N. York
the inevitable consequence would be the quick reduction of the British
Islands already bereft of all defence by the removal of their troops &c
the Continent. For the 261
reasons here suggested Gentlemen you will readily discern the
the security of American independence & with for them
how all important it is to engage France into the War as soon as may be
and if it be possible, & speedily to procure from the Courts
number of Line of battle ships you were desired in your instruction
to Alarm Powers, the speedy arrival of which here, in the present
state of things, might decide the contest at one stroke.

We shall pay a proper attention to what Mr. Deane writes
about Dr. Williamson & Mr. Hopkins, and we think the ill
treatment this Country and Mr. Deane have received from
these men, strongly suggest the necessity of some suitable resentment
persons coming to France as Americans and friends to America
whom the most unexceptionable proofs have not removed all doubts
of their instructions on the 6th Article of the Treaty proposed to be
made with France. As all affairs relative to Commerce and remitta
pay now are other department, we beg leave to refer you to the
Secret Committee and Mr. Thomas Morris their Agent in France
for every information on these subjects. As the neighborhood of Phila-
delphia hath by the enemies movements become the seat of war, it
was judged proper that Congress should adjourn to this Town
where the public business may be attended to with more dispatch
deliberation that its importance demands. The Congress is accordingly
opened here on the 20th instant. As it is more than probable that
the conference with Lord Howe on Staten Island may be misrepresented
to the injury of these States, we do ourselves the pleasure to inclose
you an authenticated account of that whole business, which the
hospitality of Lord Stanhope not answering sendus from him. This oath
was taken to vindicate his Lordship, and since to the world that
he did not possess powers, which for the purposes of deliberation and
division had been suggested. Mr. Deanes promotion of Loanes
accepted by Congress and they have desired Dr. Mellon to solicit
to be obtained if possible. The necessity of keeping up the credit of
our paper currency, and the variety of important views that

may be made of this money have induced Congress to go so far as
sent, but this interest is heavy, and it is hoped you may be able
to do the business on much easier terms. The resolves of Congress
subject are inclosed, and your earliest attention to them is
that we may know soon as possible of this alleviation.
The resolve inclosed will shew you that Congress approve
armed Vessels being fitted out by you on Continental account
provided the Court of France dislike not the measure, and
blank commissions for this purpose will be sent you by the next
opportunity. Private Ships of War, or Privateers, cannot be admitted
where you are, because the securities necessary in such cases,
to prevent irregular practices, cannot be given by the Owners &
Commanders of such Privateers. And the resolve of Congress
which we have the honor to inclose you, directs the conduct
to be pursued with regard to Portugal. We have nothing
further to add at present, but to request that you will not omit
no good opportunity of informing us how your success engages
attention, what events take place in Europe by which these
States may be affected, and that you continue us as
regular succession some of the best London, French
& Dutch newspapers; with any valuable political pub-
lications that may concern North America

We have the honor to be with
great respect and esteem &c.

P. S. The American captures of British Vessels at Sea have
not been less numerous or less valuable than before
Doctor Franklin left us. The value of those captures
has been estimated at two millions.

Copy of Letter
to the Commissioners
of the Treasury

my dear sir Crospikes Decem 30. 1776

There is no soil so dear to a Soldier as that which is marked with the footsteps of a flying enemy. Every thing looks well. Our army increases daily, and our troops are impatient to avenge the injuries done to the state of New Jersey. The tories fly with the precipitation peculiar to guilty fear to their Howe. A detachment from our body yesterday took four of them and killed one. Two of the former were officers in their new militia establishment. —

We suffer much from the want of intelligence which can only proceed

by money that will pass in both cases.
Howe owes the superiority & regularity
not so much to the voluntary information of
his intelligence above ours entirely to the
influence of his gold. Pray send two or
three thousand pounds in hard money
immediately to Gen Washington. It will
do you more service than 20 new regi-
ments. Let not this matter be debated, b
postponed in the usual way for two or three
weeks. The salvation of America under Go
depends upon it's being done in an instant

I ~~beg to inform~~ beg leave
for a moment to call off your attention
from the affairs of the public to inform
you that I have just heard from good
authority that my much loved father
in law who is now a prisoner with a

Gen Howe to suffer many indigni-
ties & hardships from the enemy, from
which not only his rank, but his being
a man ought to exempt him. I wish
you would propose to Congress to pass a
resolution in his favor similar to that
they have passed in favor of Gen Lee. They
owe it to their own honor as well as to
a member of this body. I did not want
this intelligence to rouse my resentment
against the enemy. But it has aroused
it. Every particle of my blood is electrified
with revenge - and if justice cannot be
done to him in any other way, I declare I
will in defiance of the authority of the
congress, & the power of the army drive
the first rascally boy I meet with a hundred

Dec 30. 1776

miles have posted there the first decisive news that falls in our country. —

Two small brigades of new England troops have consented to serve a month after the time of their enlistment expires. There is reason to believe all the new England troops in their predicament will follow their example.

We have just heard that the enemy are preparing to retreat from Princeton. — Future Generations must be invested with dictatorial power for a few months or we are undone. The disunion of the troops has almost ruined this country. —

B. Rush

(No 138)

Dear Sir, Philadelphia, Monday Evening, 30th Dec. 1776

I take it for granted that the Committee will write to Congress in the morning, touching several matters of public concern. In the mean time, as I am not sleepy, permit me to obtrude two or three observations on your patience which I have made since I have had the pleasure of seeing you. Our Soldiers, which have been taken Prisoners by the enemy, are closely imprisoned in New-York; - a miserable pittance to subsist upon; - plundered of the better part of a most scanty apparel; and suffered to remain in that condition at this most inclement season. It is immaterial whether this treatment proceeds from an opinion that it is proper for rebels, or whether it is to starve the unfortunate into the humour of enlisting with the enemies of their country: Surely Congress is bound, indispensibly bound, to comfort and protect them as far as it is in its power. If we turn our eyes to those who have fallen into our hands, we shall find them free from almost the forms of restraint; - fed on the fat of the land, in full possession of their all, and guarded in our best barracks. This is clemity, gentleness, and humanity: but our enemies call it timidity. Congress threatens with the voice of thunder; but executes its purposes with the mildness of a Lamb.

[illegible]. Were we once again to act with Spirit, and persevere with firmness, we should much sooner become more formidable to our enemies than by any other means. It is very far from my intention to insinuate that the unfortunate in our power should be made to suffer [illegible] their situation necessarily creates; all I mean to suggest is, that Congress has taken no steps sufficient to remedy an inhuman pernicious evil. Suppose, for the present, a Commissary of Prisoners was appointed and sent to New-York, with power to purchase Cloathing Necessaries, & to give Provisions in payment. To this Sir Wm. Howe would not object. Besides the obligations of duty and humanity, and the frightful example to our new army, which prompt the necessity of something of this kind, it might be worked into an essential benefit. It is possible that such Commissary might prevail on these unfortunate people to re-enlist upon the prospect of being well cloathed. In this case the Continent would profit by their service as soon as an Exchange could take place. If we exchange them without trying this expedient, we give an army

life) to the enemy, for lol
policy, will in a day or
rs. If something of this
iety of America, which is
nsiderations, will make
y further exchange until
be settled. The enemy's
force is now divided, and probably cannot be
easily collected until the Spring; but if you
rnish them with two thousand effective men
at this time, be the rest of our
game is now in our hands;-
required heroic objects us to pursue it. If
I am not mistaken in my conjectures, their
conduct respecting General Lee will amount
to a justification of any thing that it may
be necessary to be done on our part.

I am, Dear Sir, your most

Obedient Servant,

P.S. 31st Dec.

The resolutions of Congress have
just come to hand. The Committee
are pleased with them. Our great
good General will I have no doubt
remedy these evils.

Geo Walton.

1776

193 Ells broad Cloth
800 do
803 Ells do
824 Ells Ozn
493 Ells flannel

16 bar.s & powder
74 do
95 — 100 each
2 bar.s musket powder 100 each
6 do 50 each
12 do 25 each
20 do 10 each
25 Cannon powder
3½ Musket 20 each
36 do 10 each

12767 lb.
Sulphur
1 barrel Saltpetre

220 barrels
20 do powder 100 each
50 do 10 each

600 Ells Coating 298
10 Swivel Guns

5000 flints

71
30
22
32
35
6
1
34 blankets
23
150 do

200,000 Percs
636,000 pins

Williams & Brandon Agents

Baltimore

No 435

[illegible]

To the Hon.ble the Committee of
secret Correspondence.

Paris Dec.r 31.st 1776.
Lett. Book V. 2. p. 8

Gentlemen.

I had the honor of receiving your Letter of the 23.d by which you announce to me my appointment as one of the Commissioners from the Congress of the United States of America.

I cannot express how much I am obliged to that most respectable body for giving me an opportunity of shewing how much I prefer the service of my Country & their present cause to every other pursuit & situation in life.

I had the happiness of joining Dr. Franklin & Mr. Deane the day after the arrival of the Courier at this place. We have employed every moment in preparing the way for fulfilling the purposes of our mission. It is impossible to say yet in what degree we shall be able to accomplish our instructions and our wishes. The politics of Europe are in a state of trembling hesitation. It is in consequence of this, that the promises which were made us by the French agent in London, and which I stated to you by Mr. Story & Thorne have not been entirely fulfilled. The changing the mode of conveying what they promised was settled with Mr. Deane, whom Mr. Bentaley found here upon his return, and with whom all the arrangements were afterwards made. I hope you will have received some of the supplies long before this reaches you. Infinitely distant as they are of what were promised in quantity, quality, and time, I trust they will be of very material service in the operations of next campaign. It is that, to use the words of our Archr enemy, to which we must look; and no exertions in preparing for it can be too great,

Memoir concerning the present State of the late British Colonies in North America Page 200 [illegible]

1st With regard to their Union

All their humble Petitions for Redress of Grievances being rejected, and answered only by an Act of Parliament confiscating their Estates, and declaring their Lives forfeited, and the War being carried on against them with uncommon Cruelty, by burning their defenceless Towns in Winter, exciting Slaves to rise against their Masters, and Savages to depopulate & massacre their inoffensive Husbandmen, the several Colonies, exasperated to the last Degree, called loudly upon the Congress to declare an Independence. The Congress, after mature Deliberation have done it, the several Colonies have since approved, and confirmed that Declaration ~~and have accordingly~~, and have accordingly formed their seperate Constitutions as independant States. A general Confederation is also planned by the Congress, whereby, for general Purposes and the common Defence, the Power of the whole is united in that Body. A Copy of that Instrument of Confederation is hereto annexed. There are nevertheless in each Colony some who have not heartily concurred in this Revolution. They consist chiefly of Traders who are put out of Business, of

people

...ople from England and Scotland who have not been
long settled in that Country, or of such Natives as have
held Offices under the former Government, or are afraid of
Consequences that may follow a Conquest. The Number of
these latter is not at present great, but may encrease
if any considerable Force should attend the British
Arms. The Harmony among the Members of the Congress
and between the Congress and the several States was perfect
when M. Franklin left America Oct. 26. and was likely to con-
tinue so.

2. With regard to their Strength

The Congress have resolved 88 Battalions for the
ensuing Campaign, each Battalion to consist of about 780
Men. A Copy of this Resolution is annexed. They have
a number of small Ships at Sea, which have greatly
annoyed the English Commerce. They have 13 Frigates of
32 to 36 Guns, just built, most of them rigged and nearly
ready for the Sea, but are in want Guns and Anchors.
Cannon of Iron are casting in different Places, as large
as 18 Pounders, but the Workmen not being yet perfect
in the Business, many of the Pieces fail in the proof,
which occasions a want of Cannon from Europe. A
number of Privateers are also out against the Enemy.
Abundance of Fishermen being just out of their Employ-
ment by the War, enter in the Frigates or engage in
the Privateers.

The Number of Souls in the 13 United States,
is commonly estimated at 3.000.000 Perhaps that
Estimate

Estimate is too high at present, but such is the rapid Increase of People there from Marriages, that it cannot be long before that Number is exceeded, the Inhabitants having been generally found to double themselves by natural Generation every 25 Years, and in a greater proportion in those Colonies that receive an Accession of Strangers. So that probably Mr will not be wanting to continue this War.

3 As to their Agriculture and Commerce

Their Agriculture has not hitherto been much hinder'd by the War. Those who are not in Arms working more diligently, so that the Country is full of Provisions and cheap. Some Diminution there has been in the Planting of Tobacco from a Prospect of a less Demand, but more Cotton and Flax has been raised, as being immediately wanted for Clothing. The Commerce is for the most part stopped from two Causes, the Fear of Capture by the English, & the Want of Ships to export the Produce; the Merchants of the middle and more northern Colonies, who used to export Wheat, Flour, Fish and other Provisions, having sold most of their Ships to Europe when they foresaw the Stoppage; and the British Ships which used to carry the Tobacco from Virginia and Maryland, and the Rice, Indigo Pitch and Tar from the Carolinas and Georgia, to the Number of 500 Sail, being withdrawn and our Carpenters now employed in building Frigates and Privateers, very little Trade can be carried on. A few Ships only have been sent to Europe and the french Islands, for Arms and Ammunition on the Account of the Congress,

some

[illegible] of which Number taken either going or returning
there who will trade with or touch there for long Voyages.

The Commerce of the U. States has encreased in a much greater proportion than that of the Number of People because at the present time that Few have grown more numerous they have also become richer, and able to pay for richer Manufactures. This Commerce before the War amounted to about Five Millions of Pounds Sterling and employed between & & 900 Sail of Ships England has lost this Commerce. It may now with all its future Increase be gained by France and Spain if they will protect it. and they will thereby be as much strengthned in the Vent of Manufactures and produce, Increase of Wealth & Seamen &c as England will be weakened, whereby the Difference will be doubled. The Tobacco &c. which France and Spain cannot consume, they may vend with Profit, to the rest of Europe.

It is to be apprehended that if the Commerce of America is much longer obstructed the Party who dislike the War will be so strengthen'd as to compel the rest to an accommodation with Britain. For the other Party tho now by far the most numerous and who are for continuing till the Independence is established and until they have obliged Britain to make Reparation for the Injuries she has done us, will be weaken'd by the Want of Commerce as, without it Taxes cannot so well be raised for supporting the War, nor the Troops so easily cloath'd and armed.

To the Good People of Virginia

Friends and Fellow Subjects—

It is the business of every honest man when he knows that any thing is going to be done by which his countrymen are to be ruined, to give them timely notice of the danger, that they may take proper care to save themselves from the destruction that threatens them. I shall therefore point out the mischief and leave it to them I do not doubt but that you like brave and free born men will endeavor to prevent it. When your Forefathers came first from England to discover and settle this country, they had a right to and did enjoy the same liberties here with the rest of their Fellow Subjects in England. And the King at that time, knowing what great benefit it would be to England, and how great dangers the first Settlers here must meet with, did give them his royal word in an instrument of writing called a Charter, that they and their Children should hold their liberty, and Property who might come here of them in the same manner as the people of England did, and as they would have done had they remained in England. Now one of the best rights that Englishmen enjoy is, that their property, their living shall not be taken from them, nor no part of it, unless it is by the consent of those Members or Burgesses that they choose at their elections to represent them. Because if the Burgesses that are chosen by the people and live among them, and have also a share of the taxes, if they lay a Tax upon the Poor country, they Burgesses must pay their proportionable part: and by doing wrong as to lay taxes without reason, the People can turn them out at a new Election. This is a reasonable right you know my Countrymen we have all along enjoyed. Now did our Fellow Subjects in England ever dispute it until lately, when the Stamp Act was passed, which Act if it was executed, it is supposed would take from this poor country at least fifty thousand pounds sterling every year, a sum almost twice as much as all the Taxes laid by our own Assembly have ever yet amounted to, and which must ruin us all. Nay I question if in a few years we should be able to pay the Taxes, though we were to sell our Land, Negroes, with our Wives & Children into the bargain. But what is more than all this, if the Stamp Act should go down here, the people of England will of course go on, tax us every year, or because they will be to a great degree eased of the Taxes laid on us, & because our Friends dare not vote at their Elections, and therefore cannot displace the Members who let them do so wrong. Reader according to this account of the case, and which is agreeable to truth, it is very plain that the Stamp Act is contrary to the rights our Fathers brought from Britain with them, as they can have no representation in the House of Commons for the purpose of taxing us. It was well known that the Stamp Act would certainly ruin the poor people of this Colony by taking away their Liberty with their Property, many of our honest Countrymen by their conduct at Williamsburg, the 31st of October last, have hitherto prevented this cruel Act from being executed to

Lee, R. H., Address to the people of Virginia.

ginia. because no Stamp'd Paper ~~—~~ to be had, do't. Hancock made
resigned his Office — and this shall be told in the same manner
all the days, the people every where shall dare their ~~brave~~ ~~hearts~~
~~must then be~~ so ~~far from being~~ ~~—~~ abhorring the A. Act
much as we in Virginia do — When this is so well known to be
the opinion of all Men here, does it not deserve your highest
signation; and ought you not to punish Archibald Ritchie
of Hobb's Hole in the severest manner if he should do, what he
has had the matchless impudence to declare publicly at Richmond
Court that he will do. ~~In defiance of the Laws of this~~ ~~Land~~ ~~abroad~~
~~Stamp't Paper to clear out his Vessel~~ ~~with~~ Wentworth — Scarlett
he said he would clear out his Vessel on Stamp't Paper which
he knew where to get, and which it is supposed he will send
abroad for. Now it is plain that if you suffer Ritchie to set
his Example, all other Merchants will follow it, and so the Stamp
Act, that is to destroy our Liberty, will be established in the
Trade, and from the Trade it will come next into our Courts
Justice, and from thence in to every branch of business
thro' the Country. ~~Of therefore any Friends~~, you
~~would therefore to continue Freemen as your Fathers~~
~~have always been~~. Now then is the time my
~~Virginians~~ by ~~stopping~~ in the ~~Bud~~ this ~~evil~~ ~~Designs~~ given you by
friends, to shew the world, that the Liberty of
~~these~~ your ~~Ancestors~~ determine to hand down
~~fully~~ to your ~~Sons~~ children; and that you will not suffer any
~~from~~ ~~Power~~ pretence to begin the execution of the Stamp Act
which ~~would be~~ ruinous to you, your children and children are to be
made Slaves and your estates taken from you by violence
should you ~~or~~ resist. Upon this occasion every Man, ~~or~~
~~should be as much~~ as if they were all ~~in a body~~ ~~united~~
should look upon Ritchie as
stank alike, let every one among us look upon Ritchie as
the greatest enemy of this Country, and who should as
such be punished unless he immediately gives up his
intention of getting Stamp't Paper, and publickly
renounces this strange design. Let us so act with
this Man that fear may haunt him in his dreams,
that he may find no safety, ~~no~~ by
~~and~~ that in the day he may find no safety, ~~no~~ by
~~he~~ while he gives every honest Man an opportunity
~~of~~ reason, and makes it his ~~duty~~ to be his death to act
~~this~~ ~~guilty~~ ~~against~~ ~~him~~ to say that it will be hard upon him not to send
~~him~~ ~~to~~ ~~Scotland~~ this grain — But will it not be harder upon the good people
Virginia to loose their Liberty? — And shall we ever
agree that the good of All must be given up for the
interest of one Man. But let us ask him, why he put himself
in this circumstance, why did he buy the Grain, when he has
so long known of the Stamp Act, and when there difficulty
was easily to be foreseen — It was an act of his own choice
and he ought to suffer. But let it never
be forgotten by any Country men — that the safety of the
People is the supreme Law, and that no private interest or
other consideration should destroy this — A Virginia Planter

My dear Brother, 1776

I inclose a Letter wrote to any body you think proper, containing my Idea of a Military Hospital, as frugal as I think consistent wth ye good & comfort of the sick Soldiery. — The abuses, the neglect & fraud in M—rs department have been of more dispersive to ye new Army, than any other circumstance I know of — (not paying ye men 1 another 4d thing very few have received any Pay for 4 months.) — The new england men say they will not serve if M—r y Director + The following are facts. ye can be proven but I chose not choose to be called on.

1. He appointed his own apprentice who had not been with him 3 months, Chaplain General a 50 Dollars a Month — he stalled ye whole & charged ye youth for his board

2. He has 8 or 10 mates a 3/9 a day Wages, ye continent 7/6 — they are quite ignorant

3. from 50 to 100 sick are entirely trusted to these boys. —

252

4. There always have been a great abundance of stores lodged in ye wch great expence removed from place to place greater than the first cost, & the sick perish for want of them — Hundreds in Hackensack lying on straw in old barns with nothing but Beef & bread to eat —

5. He makes money of ye Tallow, by making candles & selling them to ye hospitals, there fore nothing but Beef given them. this I have from his 2. Master who was to have part of ye profit — & I am told he took all the retained Tallow — but this I can prove. Nor should I chuse to be called upon to prove any thing — I have my information from ye united voice of his own officers — I tell you I fear you say — yet this is ye man you would have chosen — But good God! did you or I believe he could be so damned a Villain! — — General Gates who has been 2 days with us here gives us bad character of Dr Shuter ye northern Director —

If you think proper to show the enclosed to Congress, do it; if to particular members do it; any how Let Mr. Adams Gerry, Rush Morris & See it. —

I know I shall have your & their interest for my proper place & when you find me tripping turn me out. —

General Howe is now stopped & I believe for the winter — Washington is strongly reinforced by Sullivan & Gates w^h 4000 brave Northern Troops who passed through this place 2 days ago. — There is a certain account of 12000 men coming from Massachusetts — The extremities save us. — Where are the virginia Light horse &? Our Troops begin to recollect themselves & again think of Bush fighting they scout & skirmish every day with success & begin to grow bold. — The New York men have raised their complement for ye Army & intend doing more. —

Your Sister has received a letter from her Bro
Thos William in wch after saying they are all
well & that his family is in a way to be layer
while his means of supporting them are lop,
says, his friends in america give places to
men by no means friendly to y^r Cause while
he is entirely forgot. — I am desired by some
of ye northern members of congress to recom
mend to your notice Dr^s Foster & Warren
there are strong arguments in their behalf
& I believe they are clever in y^r profession
They are the two first on Morgans List, I
am only afraid they have lived too long
in the sphere of his action. — Dr Foster did du
rect before Morgan & I am well informed
The hospital was in good order, suppose
he was made director of ye northern army
& his subdirectors were Warren & Mr Knight
& Potts, who are much thought of in ye army — Unless
you make Dr Jones of New york Director
& have 3 subdirectors from ye Department
will be complete. — For ye middle I should
like to continue if it agreable to congress,
& have for my subdirectors Drs Brown Kuhn
& Cochran — all ye Directors should be directed by
Congress to visit ye Hospitals every 2 or 3 days.
The Southern Department you know better than I do.

which Letter can this morning

In testimony of our entire approbation of
the virtuous and manly spirit with which
Jn.o John Sears of Essex County resisted
the contumacious and vicious behavior of
Mr. Call, in refusing to join the general
Voice of Virginia on the repeal of that most
arbitrary, unjust, and tyrannic Act for
imposing Stamp duties in America, & ut-
terly abhorring all principles by which
he may be injured for having so acted,
Agree most willingly to pay the sum
of money by each of us subscribed, to Jn.o
Sears or his order on demand, thereby to
prevent the bad consequences of a late
judgment obtained against him, and also
to evince our attachment to the cause of
Liberty, by supporting its generous
Asserters

Richard Henry Lee Twenty/ [illegible]

James Davenport ... ten Shill.gs

John Lee paid ... five Shillings

Jn.o Martin ... five Shillings

60.5.0

Thos Lee Shirley 5.0 Paid more if necessary

130. Thos Ludwell Lee 5.0 Paid more if necessary

17 Rich.d Parker paid 5/ my Intention is to indemnify the Company & will give more

142 if necessary

60 Wm Booth 5/.

210— Thos Ludwell Lee Paid 5/ more if necessary

Wm Lee Paid 5/ more if necessary

10 — 12.5. Richd [illegible]

Arthur Lee 10/ Paid more if necessary

51. 10
27. 15
4.
3. 5
1
87 -10

145. 4.
88
57. 11. 6

91. 10
37. 10
£. 4. 08

Survey of Thomas Lee
1766

Congress being informed that Major General Lee hath since his captivity been committed to the custody of the Provost instead of being enlarged upon his parole according to the humane treatment which has been shewn to the Officers of the enemy who have fallen into the hands of the American troops; a treatment totally unworthy of that Gentlemans eminent qualifications, and his rank in the service of the United States, and strongly indicative of further injuries to his person.

Resolved that General Washington be directed to send a Flag to Gen. Howe, informing him that should the proffered exchange of Gen. Lee for six Hessian Field Officers be not accepted, and the unworthy treatment of him as above mentioned, be continued, that the principles of just retaliation shall occasion the said six Hessian Field Officers to be detained, in order that the same treatment which General Lee shall receive, may be exactly inflicted upon their persons.

See Journals of Old Congress Jan 16th 1777 (III. 6, 7)

Sir.

The Congress being very desirous (if Gen. Lee cannot be exchanged) to procure a proper treatment of his person, have come to the determination inclosed, which they desire may be carried into execution with all convenient dispatch. That this offer to Gen. Howe may be as generally known to the Hessians as possible, it is the desire of Congress.

If the desire of Congress to procure Generals Lee's exchange cannot be effected, and the enemy, offering the gratification of revenge to the civility they owe to their Hessian Auxiliaries, determine to keep and to use Gen. Lee ill, it will be very agreable to Congress that this be made known to the Hessians as fully as possible. And to treat Gen. Lee as effectually as may be from personal

Exchange of Gen. Lee
of General Lee

My dear Brothers

I enclose a Letter wrote to anybody you think proper, containing my Idea of a Military Hospital, as frugal as I think consistent wth ye good & comfort of the cick Soldiery. -The abuses, the neglect & frudd in M----ns department have been of more disservice to ye men Army, that any other circumstance I know of -(not paying ye men is another bad thing, very few have recieved any pay for 4 months.)- The new england men say they will not serve if M----n is Director. The following are facts t^{t} can be proven but I should not choose to be called on.

1. He appointed his own apprentice who had not been with him 3 months, apothecary general a) 50 Dollars a month - pocketted ye whole & charged ye youth for his board.

2. He has 8 or 10 mates A) 3/9 a day & charges ye continuent 7/6 - they are quite ignorant

3. from 50 to 100 sick are entirely trusted to these boys.-

4. There always have been a great abundance of stores lock'd up & wth great expence removed from place to place greater than the first cost, & the sick perish for want of them - Hundreds in Hackinsack lying on straw in cold barns with nothing but Beef & bread to eat -

5. He makes money of ye Tallow, by making candles & selling them to ye hospital, therefore nothing but Beef given them, this I have from his Q Master who was to have part of ye profitt.-& I am told he pockets all the retained rations- but this I cant prove.. Nor should I choose to be called upon to prove any thing - I have my information from ye united voice of his own officers - Methinks I hear you say - yet this is ye man you would have chosen - But good God! did you or I believe he could be so damned a rogue! - General Gates who has spent 2 days with us here gives as bad a character of Dr. Stringer ye northern Director. - If you think proper to show the enclosed to Congress, do it: if to particular Members do it: any how Let Messrs Adams, Gerry, Rush Morris &c see it.- I know I shall have your & their interest for my proper place & when you find me tripping turn me out.- General Howe is now stopped & I believe for the winter- Washington is strong being reinforced by Sullivan & Gates wth 4000 brave Northern Troops who passed through this place 2 days ago.- There is a certain account of 12000 men coming from Massachusetts-

TRANSCRIPT

The extremes must save us; -where are the virginia light horse &c? Our troops begin to recollect themselves & again think of Bush fighting. They scout & skirmish every day with success & begin to grow bold.-The New York men have raised their complement for ye Army & intend doing more- ((Your Sister has recieved a Letter from her Brother William in wch after saying they are all well & that his family is in a way to be larger while his means of supporting them are less, says his friends in america give places to men by no means friendly to ye Cause while he is entirely forgot.-)) I am desired by some of ye norhtern members of congress to recommend to yorr interest Drs Foster & Warren there are strong arguments in their behalf & I believe they are clever in th^{r} profession. They are the two first on Morgans List, I am only afraid they have lived too long in the sprere of his action.- D. Foster did direct before Morgan & I am will inform'd. The hospital was in good order; suppose he was made Director of ye Northern Army & his sub directors then ye Department will be complete.- For ye middle I should like to continue if tis agreable to Congress, & have for my sub directors Drs. Brown, Kuhn & Cochran - all ye directors should be directed by Congress to visit th^{r} Hospitals every 2 or 3 days. The Southern department you know better th^{n} I do.

1776(?) No 135 3/4

to send your plate into Canada, for if We lose that - We lose
every thing - if my scheme of raising Cavalry - is found agreeable
by the Congress I do not know what can pass unacceptable - it was
the most economical plan that can be devised but it
said that I should have previously laid it before them - as
was to be kept a, not a single minute, and as I was opposed by the
Eleven Members of the Convention that if the Congress did not thus
be at the expence of Forage - The Province would - it was
impossible at least it was dangerous to wait the result of three
Gentlemen of the Congress on this head - do You know, that We
have been near losing this Province from the want of Cavalry
We must have a large Body - I request as I have not time
You will pardon me to Congress on this subject - You shall



(№ 134) 1776.?

Dear Sir, Wednesday evening.

A memorial will be presented by our assembly tomorrow to the congress praying an explanation of your resolves of the 15th instant. The motion for the application (which came from one of the Allens) shews a design to enslave the people of Pennsylvania. I conjure you by your past & present affection for our common mistress not to desert us in this trying exigency. 4/5 of the inhabitants of our colony will fly to the ultima ratio before they will submit to a new government formed by the present assembly. Please to circulate the papers you will receive herewith among all the Southern ~~&~~ delegates tomorrow

(N°134)

~~Lou~~ morning. Mr Henry must not be neglected. — Yours affectionately

W^m H

y.t Parent & Head of a large Family in Boston, I was induced to tarry there while others fled from apprehended Danger, in the early months of last year. An absolute Decision of Providence fixed my wavering Intentions in April, and Ties of Honour succeeded to prevent my after-Removal. By the first, I mean the Birth of my eighth Child; by the second I mean the accepted Oversight of the Germaine Lee Works of an intimate Friend then sick in the Country. Proclamation of martial Law was made on the 12.th of June, attended with a Promise of Protection. In this I thought myself secure till y.e 29.th of that Month. Then I was thrown into the Provost's by the Town Major, after a fruitless Search of my Papers for some Cause of Criminality. Absolute Beggery was hereby brought upon me from an usual Income of 1100 Dollars p.r Year. I lay 17 Days without any Charge in the Provost's Returns. After this I was said to be "a Spy & giving Intelligence to the Rebels". I was carried forth with other Inhabitants under fixt Bayonets on y.e 18.th 19.th & 20.th of July to a Garison Court of Enquiry, but not called into the Presence of the Judges; tho', I heard the Provost martial answer to the President that "Leach Lovell Edes & Starr were Prisoners & brought; de a written Appli ce for the Names of Garison-Court, but Gen.l Howe, in treat niry; that so the yal, by Order". I to the Adjutant Gen.ls Officers who constituted as refused. I wrote at he would promote of the military Ops-

vernment, in which he bore an eminent Part, might not be exerted upon the Motion of any lurking Individual, and, thereby, exposes to a Charge of Wantonness, contrary to the Spirit & Letter of the 29th Article of the last Mutiny Bill. I referred to Majr Carr for collateral Evidence of Facts at my Arrest; and mention'd my Incapacity of preparing to the Judges, for others, respecting the Gen.l Court, where neither Prosecutor nor Evidences cou'd be produced against me. The Gen.l politely wrote me an Answer; and sent it by Majr Small, with a Message, purporting that I was mistaken in thinking he bore Part in the Government which imprisoned me.

Having in July protested my Innocence to Gen.l Gage, I again petitioned him in 2d.p.r to consider the Honour & Dignity of his Government deeply interested in an Examination into the Truth of Charge at length appearing against me. This was fruitless like former Attempts.

On 4.r 3.d of October 4 Room-Mates were dismissed on giving Bond that they would not speak write or print any Thing respecting any one acting under Gen.l Gage directly or indirectly; and I was left alone in Confinement on the 10.th, when the Gen.l sailed for Gr. Britain. For, the Price which I set upon my Conscience & Honour was so well known that, the same Proposal was not made to me, which had been accepted by the other 4.

On the 16.th of October I petitioned Gen.l Howe, Commander in Chief, for a Court of Enquiry,

I received for Answer that I can't be dismiss'd from Prison only by my procuring the Release of Coll.ᵈ Sheave & his Son". This was making the Inhabitants of Boston Prisoners of War, and I should have deserved Death indeed, if I had aimed to promote a Thing so pregnant with Danger to my Fellow Citizens.

I was torn in a surprizing Manner from my dear Wife & Children on the 10ᵗʰ. of March this Year. And the vain Attempts for Freedom, which I have made since then, will appear from the inclosed Papers.

Etat de la Marine d'Espagne

Vaisseaux de Ligne

Année de la Construction	Lieux où ils ont été Construits	Nom des Vaisseaux	Canons
1769	la Havane	la Trinité	112
1749	ge.	le St. Henri	80
1748	ge.	la foudre	80
1767	ge.	le St. Louis	80
1765	ge.	le St. Charles	80
1768	Carthagène	le St. Ferdinand	80
1769	ge.	le St. Nicolas	80
1766	St. Ander	le St. Jean Nepomucène	70
1767	ge.	le St. Pascal	70
1767	ge.	le St. Fois d'Assise	70
1768	ge.	le St. Augustin	70
1750	la Havane	la Galice	70
1751	ge.	la Principesse	70
1752	Carraque	l'Afrique	70
1753	le ferrol	l'Orient	70
1754	St. Ander	le Suisant	70
	ge.	l'arrogant	70
	ge.	le serieux	70
	le ferrol	le Gaillard	70
	ge.	le Magnanime	70
	ge.	le Brillant	70
	Carraque	la ferme	70
	Carthagène	l'actif	70
1755	le ferrol	le Vainqueur	70
1755	ge.	le Guerrier	70
1756	ge.	le Monarque	70
	ge.	l'heureux	70
	ge.	le triomphant	70
	ge.	le Diligent	70
1764	Carthagene	le Velasco	70
1766	ge.	le St. Janvier	70
1767	ge.	la St. Isabelle	70
1768	le ferrol	le St. Isidore	70
	ge.	le St. Julien	70
	St. Ander	le St. Laurent	70
	ge.	le St. Dominique	70

Année de la Construction	Lieux où ils ont été construits	Nom des Vaisseaux	Canons
1769	la Havane	le St. Fois de Saule	70
	ge.	le St. Joseph	70
1770.	le ferrol	le St. Paul	70
	ge.	le St. Pierre	70
1771.	Carthagène	le St. Joachim	70
1772.	Carthagène	le St. Gr. Bap.	70.
	le ferrol	le St. Gabriel	70
1773	Carthagène	l'ange Gardien	70
1774.	la Havane	le St. Michel	70
1775.	le ferrol	le St. Eugène	70
1776.	Carthagene	le St. Damase	70
1771.	la Havane	le St. Raphaël	70.
1745.	ge.	le Dragon	64
1757.	Carraque	l'Espagne	64
1758.	le ferrol	le Champion	64
	la Havane	le Ruse	60
1776.	la Havane	l'Amerique	60
1771.	ge.	le St. de la Alcantara	60.
1757.	Guayaquil	le Peruvien	60
1775.	la Havane	le St. Raymond	60
1751.	Carthagène	le Septentrion	64
Venus de Naples		le St. Isidore	60
		le St. Leandre	64

Total — 59

Frégates

Année de la Construction	Lieux où elles ont été Construites	Noms des Frégates	Canons
1753	Carthagène	l'Amorane	32
1755.	Carraque	le Lièvre	26
1756.	Carthagène	l'Altrée	26
1755	Carraque	l'Industrie	26
	Carthagène	le Vallat	26
	Carraque	le Vrnul	26
	Carthagène	la Junon	26
1767	Guarnizo	la Ste. Catherine	26
	Carthagène	la Ste. Rosalie	26
1768	Guarnizo	la Ste. Barbe	26
	Id.	la Ste. Gertrude	26.
	Id.	la Ste. Eleonore	26
1770	le ferrol	le Carme	26
	Id.	le Notaire	26
	la havane	la Ste. Lucie	26
1772.	le ferrol	l'Assomption	26
	Idem	la Ste. Marie de la Cabezza	26
	Id.	la Ste. Sepulture	26
1773.	le ferrol	la Ste. Marie Madeleine	26
1774	le ferrol	la Ste. Marguerite	26
	Id.	la Ste. Marthe	26
1776	le ferrol	la Ste. Dorothée	26
	Id.	la Ste. Claire	26
1761.	Guarnizo	la Solitude	24
1753	Carthagène	la Perle	22
	Id.	la Dorade	22
	Carraque	l'Aigle	24
	France	la Ste. Rose	20
	Carraque	le Jupiter	18.
	la havane	la Ste. Agueda	26
	Id.	la Ste. Cecile	26
	Id.	la Ste. Leocadie	24

Total -- 32

Chebecs

Année de la Construction	Lieux où elles ont été Construites	Noms des Chebecks	Canons
1762	Carraque	l'Andalou	30.
1763	Carthagène	le hardy	30
	Fait d'un des 3 mats incorporé à la marine en 1770.	le Lilier	30
	Carthagène	le St. Narcisse	30
1770.	Majorque	le Daim	30
	la havane	le Caymand	30
1772.	Carthagène	le Heron	30
1771.	Alant	le St. Antoine	26
1774	Carthagène	le St. Sebastien	26.
	Id.	le St. Louis	16.
1775.	Majorque	le Nouveau Carme	12.
	Id.	le Levrier	30

Total ---- 12

Brigantins

Aggregés à la marine Rle en 1774	Carthagène	le St. Jaques	16.
	Angleterre	le Boop	10.
	Cumana	le St. Antoine	10

Total ---- 3

Galiotes à Bombes

1771.	le ferrol	la Ste. Vasule	8
1775	le ferrol	la Ste. Casilde	8
	Id.	la Ste. Eulalie	8
	Carthagène	la Ste. Rosalie	8

Total ---- 4

Paquebots

1760.	la havane	le Volant	18.
	le ferrol	le Mard	16.
	Guarnitho	le Guarnitho	14.
	achetés en la havane	le St. Jean nepom.	14
		le St. Fois de Saule	14
	Idem	le St. Laurent	14
1774.	Carthagène	le St. Christophle	16.

Total ---- 7

Goaletteil

années ou la Construction a été ordonnée	Lieux ou elles ont été Construites	Noms ces Batiments	Canons
1772	le ferrol	la d'astorizza	
1774	Carthagene	la S.ta en Gracia	
	Total ... 2		
	Cozyeuil		
1771.	le ferrol	Dolorez	8
	Total ... 1		
	Demi-Galères		
1773.	Carthagène	la Cibdante	3
1762.	id.	l'hirondelle	3
	Naples	les S.t Antoine	3
	id.	les S.t Joseph	3
	id.	la Conception	3
	id.	les S.t François	3
1766.	id.	les S.t Charles	3
	Total ... 7.		
	Bourques Frégatées		
1772	le ferrol	le Monserrat	12
	id.	la S.te Amélie	12
	le ferrol	la S.te Colonie	12
1773.	id.	la S.te Just	12
	id.	la S.te Florentine	12
	Carthagène	la N. D.e de Vegla	12
	Le ferrol	l'annonciation	12
		la Visitation	12
		la Présentation	12
	Total ... 9.		
	Bourques Régulières		
	Achetés a Amsterdam le 27 May 1776.	l'Anonime	18
		la Vizarre	18
		l'Etrangere	18
		la S.te Anne	18
		les S.t Charles	18
		les S.t Joseph	18
		les S.t Jean	18
		les S.t Antoine	18
	Total ... 8		

N.a Ce Batiment construit pour porter de 38. a 40. canons, on été reduit a 12. le surplus etant inutile.

Pour la Marine d'Espagne

Récapitulation

Vaisseaux	1er Rang	7	59
	2e Rang	41	
	3e Rang	11	
Fregates			32
Chebecks			12
Brigantins			3
Galiotes a Bombes			4
Paquebots			7
Goaletes			2
Cowetes			1
Galiotes			7
Fourgues-Fregates			2
Fourgues Regulieres			8
			= 144.

The Proceedings of the Committee of Secrecy appointed by Congress of the United States of America 1775.

In Congress Sept. 18th 1775

On motion made Resolved That a Committee be appointed to contract & agree for the importation & delivery of any quantities of Gunpowder not exceeding in the whole five hundred tons.

That in case such a quantity of Gunpowder cannot be obtained then to contract for the importation of so much saltpetre with a proportionable quantity of sulphur as with the powder they may procure will make up the quantity of five hundred tons.

That the s.d Comee be empowered to contract for the importation & delivery of any number not exceeding twenty thousand good fuzees double bridled musket locks.

That the s.d Comee be empowered to contract for the importation of ten thousand stand of good arms. That the s.d Committee consist of nine, five of whom to be a Quorum.

Thursday Sept. 14th 1775. the Congress proceeded to the election of men to compose a Committee for the purpose expressed in the Resolve of yesterday, & the vote being taken the following Gentlemen were duly elected viz. Mr Willing Dr Franklin Mr P. Livingston Mr Alsop, Mr Deane, Mr Dickenson Mr Langdon, Mr M.Kean & Mr Ward.

A Copy from the Minutes
Chs Thomson Secy

(a)
3p. Committee Chamber Sept. 27th 1775

Philadelphia — At a meeting of the Committee of Secrecy appointed by the Honble continental Congress of the 13 U.C. in N.A. present — Saml Ward, John Langdon Silas Deane, John Alsop, Philip Livingston Benjamin Franklin, John Dickenson & Thos M.Kean Esqrs Members of the said Committee of Secrecy.

A Contract was entered into by Thos Willing & Robert Morris & Co of the City of Philadelphia in the Province of Pensylva

(a) NB These pages are those of the Cont. Book

Merch.ts of the one part, with Samuel Ward
John Langdon, Silas Deane, John Alsop,
Philip Livingston, Benjamin Franklin
John Dickenson & Thos. M:Kean the afore
said Members of the other part as
follows viz.t — That the s.d Thos. Willing
Robert Morris (a) & Co. shall & will, with
the utmost speed & secrecy send a
ship or vessel to some port of Europe
& there purchase at the cheapest rate
they can a thousand barrels of good
powder, twelve good brass guns, (six
pounders) two thousand Stand of good
arms viz.t Soldiers muskets & bayonets
& five thousand gunlocks double bri-
dled, of a good quality, & in case the
aforesaid quantity of powder cannot be
procured, that they shall & will pur-
chase as much Saltpetre & Sulphur
as to be had as will make as much powder
as shall be deficient.

(a) N.B. Mr. Patterson Coll.r in the port of Philadelphia in the
years 1773, 1774, says that in those years protested Bills
returned against M.r R. Morris for about 50,000 Stg.
A Lee had it from Mr. W. Livingston.

4 P.

As by the Contract express into the Register of the Contracts of the S.t Committee of Secrecy p. 2 &c bearing date the day & year aforesaid, reference being thereunto had, more fully & at large appears.

In Congress Oct.r 6. 1775

On Motion made — Resolv.d That the Committee appointed by this Congress for the importation of powder, export agreable to the Continental association as much provisions or other produce of these Colonies as they shall judge expedient for the purchase of Arms & Ammunition.

5 P.M. — Committee Chamber Oct.r 9.th 1775. Philadelphia — At a meeting of a Committee of Secrecy appointed by the Hon.b Cont.l Congress of the 13 U. C.s in N. A. present Sam.l Ward, John Langdon

Langdon, Silas Deane, Thos. Willing &
Thos. M'Kean Esqrs. a Quorum of the
S. Committee

A Contract was entered into
between Philip Livingston, John
Alsop, & Francis Lewis of the City
of N. York Merchts. of the one part; &
the aforesaid Saml. Ward, John Langdon
Silas Deane, Thos. Willing & Thos. M'Kean
Esqrs. as follows, to wit - That a voyage
or voyages shall be forthwith under-
taken for the speedy procuring fifty
tons of powder, twelve brass Six pound-
ers cannon, a thousand stand of good
soldiers muskets & two thousand good
double bridled gunlocks; & in case all
the powder mentioned cannot be obtained
then as much Salt petre & Sulphur as

will make the deficiency that may be
deficient. As by the Sheet copied
into the Register Book page of
C.P. Committee Chamber Dec. 25. 1775
Philadelphia — At a meeting of the Committee
present. Jesse Ward, John Langdon, Silas
Deane, John Alsop, Tho. Wharton Jr. &
a Quorum of s.d Committee

A Contract entered into between
Alexander Gillon of Charlestown S. Carolina
Merch.t of the one part, & the s.d Committee
Secrecy on the other part as follows to wit
That s.d A. Gillon doth engage & promise for him
self his Executors & Administrators to charter
purchase as soon as possible a sufficient
number of Ships or other vessels for the
exporting & carrying as much of the produce
or manufactures of the province of S. Carolina
[redacted] s.d or of some other of the confederate United
States as can be procured for twenty Thousand pounds
Sterl.g money of G. Britain, to Holland or
other european market, agreeable to the

aforesaid in Virtue to sell the same And
he doth hereby engage to purchase the
produce or manufactures aforesaid at
the lowest price that he can & to make
a payment of twenty thousand pounds law-
full money aforesaid. The same to shall
as soon as possible, but at all events
before the first day of June next to
some port of Holland. That he will
proceed with the same personally & will or cause
to be sold the said produce & manufactures for the
best price & prices that can be obtained for the
same & that he will lay out & expend the
nett proceeds of all the s.d Adventure in
purchasing at the lowest rates & the best
quality two hundred tons of Gunpowder
chiefly pistol powder, twenty four brass field
pieces (9 pound) four thousand double barrel
gunlocks & thousand stand of good Sol-
diers muskets & bayonets, this case the whole
of the powder cannot be procured then as much
saltpetre & sulphur as will make as much
powder as may be procured as by the s.d Cov.t
&c fol. & &c

Gunpowder 200
Brass field pieces 24
Gunlocks 2000
Muskets & Bayonets 1000

[illegible]

Resolv'd, That the [illegible] appointed to consult for the importation of Arms & Ammunition & Implements to export to the Savages of N. India [illegible] Treaque of Peace & Entercourse as much Provision or any other Provisions, except Horses Cattle Sheep, Hogs & Poultry as they may deem necessary for the importation of Arms Ammunition & Implements aforesaid.

Ex. from the Minutes
Chas Thomson Sec.y

Philadelphia Committee Chamber Nov.r 8th 1775

At a Meeting of the Committee of Safety
Present Sam.l Nasi

This Indenture made & entered into
Between Nathaniel Shaw jun.r of Norwich in the Colony of Connecticut Merch.t of the one part, & the Committee of the other part as follows viz.t That a voyage or voyages shall be undertaken for North for the speedy procuring Q.M.35
thirty five tons gunpowder or in case any part of the gunpowder cannot be had, so much saltpetre with a proportionate quantity of Sulphur as will make the quantity deficient be by the
Committee agreed with the Register fol. 137. vide
(19)

In Philadelphia Committee Chamber Nov.
the 5th 1775. At a meeting of the Committee
of Correspondence present Sam.l Ward, Tho.s Willing
Esq.r Benjamin Franklin, Tho.s M.Kean, Josiah [redacted]
Bartlett. A Contract was entered into
between John Langdon of the town
of Portsmouth in the Colony of New
Hampshire Merch.t of the one part & the
Committee of the other part — That a
voyage or voyages shall be forthwith under-
taken for the speedy procuring twenty
five tons of good gun-powder, or in case
any part of the gunpowder cannot be had
as much Saltpetre with a proportionate
quantity of Sulphur as will make the
quantity that may be deficient.
See Journ. Cong. Vol. 1 p. [illegible]

p. 10th

Philadelphia — Committee Chamr. Novr 28 1775

At a Meeting of the Comtee of Secrecy
Present Samel Ward, Benjamin Franklin,
Thos Willing, Josiah Bartlett & Francis
Lewis Esqrs — A Contract was entered into
between Nathl Shumpard of N. London in
the Colony of Connecticut Merchr of the
one part & the Comtee of the other part

1. P. 50 lbs

That a voyage or voyages shall be forthwith undertaken for the speedy procuring of fifty tons of good gunpowder or in case any part of the gunpowder cannot be had, then as much Salt Petre &c

Vid. Fol. 17.

p: 44

Philadelphia Comm.ee Chamb.r Nov: 30.th 1775

At a meeting of the C. of S. present Sam.l Ward, Benj.n Franklin, Silas Deane, Philip Livingston, Josiah Bartlett Francis Lewis. — A contract was entered into between Sam.l Griffen & George Clymer Esq.rs of the City of Philadelphia Merch.ts & the s.d Committee

That a voyage be immediately undertaken to some free port or ports in Europe for the speedy procuring of twenty tons of good gunpowder, or if Gunpowder cannot be had, as much salt petre with 15 lb of Sulpher to every hundred weight thereof, as will make that quantity, five hundred stand of good arms & three thousand good plain double bridle gunlocks for the use of the U.C. as by the s.d Contract &c Reg. fol. 19.

G. P. 20 ton
Arms 500
Gunlocks 3000

12

In Congress, Saturday 2 Dec. 1775

Resolv. That the Select Comm.e be directed to enquire what articles are necessary for the use of the Army & make report to Congress

C. Thomson

p: 12 / Philadelphia Com. C. Dec. 5. 1775

At a meeting of the C. of S present Sam.l Ward, Benj.a Thurnbull, Silas Deane, Phil. Livingston, Josiah Bartlett Francis Lewis. A contract was entered into between J. Chevalier & Peter Chevalier of the City of Philadelphia Merch.ts of the one part & the C. C. on the other part

That a voyage be immediately undertaken, to some proper port or ports in Europe for the speedy procuring of twenty tons of good gunpowder or if the Gunpowder cannot be

J. P. 20 h

be had, as much salt petre with a pro
portion of 15 ℔ of Sulphur to every hun
dred weight of Salt petre as will be suf
ficient to make the quentity of Gun Pow
one thousand Stand of good Arrows, three
thousand good plain double bush
gun locks & twenty tons of Lead. As by
s[d] Contract &c Rec: fol: 21.

Arms 1000
gun locks 3000
Powder 13 tons

[illegible] 13/ C. C. Dec[r] 11. 1775. At a meeting of the
Com: of C. present — Sam[l] Ward, Francis
Lewis, Th[s] M'Kean, Silas Deane & Josiah Bartlett

A Contract was entered into between
Esek Hopkins of the Colony of Rhode
Island Esq[r] & the s[d] Committee

That a voyage be immediately
undertaken for the speedy procure
ment of thirteen tons good gun powder
but if the Gun powd[r] cannot be had

as much Salpetre in Proportion
of Sulpher equal to 15 ℔ to every hund.
weight of Salt petre as will make that
quantity of Gunpowder, but if neither
Gunpowder nor salt petre & Sulphur
can be had, then as many Lands of
good Arms as the Cargoe hereinafter
mentioned will purchase. As Ve Reg fol 23

In Congress Dec. 13 1775

Resolved That it be an Instruction to the
Secret Comtee. to embrace the best Oppor-
tunities to procure 7500 ℔ Duck & 1000 tons Powder for the use of the
Navy of the U. C. Ch. Thomson

In Philadelphia Com. Ch. Dec. 14. 1775

At a meeting of the Committee
present Samel Ward, Benj. Franklin
Silas Deane, Josiah Bartlett, Tho. Lewis
A Contract was entered into between

Willing Morris & Co. of the City of Philadel-
phia Merch.ts & the Subscribers of Jersey.

That the Sd Tho.s Willing Robert Morris
& Tho.s Morris shall & will, with the
utmost speed, Jersey, send a ship or
vessel to some port of Europe & there
purchase at the cheapest rate that
they can, a quantity of Duck or sail cloth
to the value of three thousand pounds
ster.g Or failing to obtain so much
value on that article, they are to pro-
cure as much thereof as they can
& invest the remaining Summ in any of the
following Articles — Gunpowder, Salpetre, Brim
stone, Lead, muskets, soldiers Musket, or coals
fit for Smith's use. As by Sd Contract &c Rej: fol 26

(a) Sign'd Philadelphia E. E. Dec.r 19. 1775

At a meeting of the Com.rs of Jersey,
Present Sam.l Wed Tho.s M.Kean, Josiah
Bartlet, Phil. Livingston & Franc.s Lewis.

A Contract was entered into between Tho.s

(a) They rec.d the same day 14000 Dls on Acc.t

York of the city of Philadelphia Merch.t of the s.d
Committee — That the s.d C. shall advance & pay
to the s.d Mr. Yorke the sum of 5350 dlls Cont.
Money, to be by him laid out in flour & other
produce, of these Colonies, (horned cattle sheep
hogs & poultry excepted) & shipped on board the
brig Betty, Robert Hench Master, for cape
Nicola mole, on account & risque & for the
benefit of the s.d U. C. And the nett proceeds
thereof laid out in good gun or rifle powder, & not
to be had, in Saltpetre & proportion of 15 lb. of Salt
to every hundred pound of saltpetre, or
in good Soldiers muskets, with double
bridled locks (if such are to be had) with
bayonets, or in ruspia or ravens duck
to be by s.d Contract &c. Reg.r fol. 29 &c
b.16/ Phel.a Com.e Ch. Dec.r 22. 1775

At a meet.g of the Com.e of Secrecy
Present Sam.l Ward, Benj.a Franklin, Silas
Deane, Josiah Bartlett & Thos. Mckean
a Contract was entered into between Blair
McClenachan of the city of Philad.a Merch.t

5th

& the said Comtt. That the sum of £550 dlls be advanced by the Treasr. of Penna to the s. Blair Shaughan to be by him laid out in flour & other provisions of these Colonies & shipped on board the brigantine John commanded by Chs. Worrell for the port of Nantz, on account & risque & for the benefit of the s. U.C. & the nett proceeds thereof laid out in the purchase of 50 Tons of good Arms, & as much good gunpowder as the s. nett proceed will purchase — or if the gunpowder cannot be had, in saltpetre with a proportion 15 lb of sulphur to every hundred weight of saltpetre. As by s. Contract & Bay: fol: 31.

h: of Arms 50 T

h: of P.

Read & Ordered C.C. Dec. 26th 1775

At a meeting of the Comtee of Secrecy, Pres.t Samuel Wharton, Benj.a Franklin, Josiah Bartlett, Robert Morris & Thos. M'Kean.

A Contract was entered into between John Brown of Providence, Rhode Isld & the s. Committee — That a voyage or voyages

The Committee of the U. C. are to be dispos'd of to the best advantage & the nett proceeds laid out in the purchase of 15 tons good gunpowder, or if G. P. cannot be had so much Saltpetre, with a proportion of 15 lb. Sulp. to every 100 lb Saltpetre as will be sufficient to make that quantity of good G. P. For 1500 stand arms, 100 Bolts Russia Duck, &c as much as those Articles & the nett proceeds of the C. Cargoe will purchase. (Vide Journ. The 5. Article (p. 20) cannot be had as aforesaid the money directed to be laid out in that Article, shall be laid out in good Tuckenburgs, Osnaburgs or Vitrys, or otherwise the Returns to be made in gold & silver. See Rec: fol: 37.

In Congress Dec. 30. 1775.

A letter from Gen. Washington dated Dec. 1775 being delivered by two Strangers were led before Congress & read—Resolved That the same be committed to the Secret

Committee, who are directed to confer with the Gentlemen, the Bearers, & pursue such measures as they may think proper, for the interest of America.

C h. Thomson Sec.

Phila. Jan. 14. 1776, At a meeting of the Com. of Sec. Present, Sam. Ward, Benjam. Franklin, Silas Deane, Tho. M'Kean & Josiah Bartlett — Mr. Robert Morris of this City Merch. was empowered by the Com. to engage nine ships or vessels for export. the produce of these colonies for the benefit of the 13 U. C.

p. 21. In Congress Jan. 13. 1776

60,000 striped blankets. 120,000 yds of 6/4 broad cloths the colors brown & blue from 3/6 to 6/
10,000 of Do. of different colors for facings at 4/
3,000 pr. of duffels or some such cloth 90/ 100,000 sorted Needles at 5/ 50,000 d. musquet. 10000 Do. for sail cloth. 3,000 pr. Ravens duck, 3,000 pr. Ticklenburgs. 1500 pr. Osnabrigs 1000 D. Vitry 1000 pr. Hamburg Dowlas. 20,000 stand Arms.

300 tons lead. 200000 flints. 1500 brass tin
Iron wire property sorted by Lt. Medicines
Surgeons Instruments, Lent & beverage
to the Amount of £200 stg. 5000 sheets of
copper deficient Resolved That the
Secret Committee be empowered & directed
to pursue the best & most effectual
method of procuring the above Articles
with all convenient expedition. Ch. Thom.

h: 22/ In Congress Jan.y 10th 1776, Resolv.
That the Secret Comm.e be directed to treat
for the purchase of the Salt petre arrived
for sale in the port of Philadelphia
Hengueu how it may be manufactured into
powder & report to Congress Ch. Thomson Sec.y

Committee Jan.y 10th 1776. The Comm.e
of Jersey was pleased to appoint Mr. An-
drew Hodge Clerk to y.e C— Rec.d 16th Jan.y
1776 of the Secret Committee an order on
the Treasurer for the Sum of 80,000 Dlls

N B. We had Bills protested in 1774 & 1775 to the
amount of about 60 or 70000 £ Ster.g & were
on the edge of Bankruptcy when the Re-
volution commenced — do this money go to
the taking up those Bills, or any of them

for the service of the U. C. to be accounted for
to the Com[te] or to Congress. Sign'd Robt. Morris.
p. 23. Phila[a] Com[te] Chamb. Jan[y] 4th 1776. At a meeting
of the Com[te] of Secrecy present Sam[l] Ward,
Benj[a] Franklin, Tho[s] M'Kean, Josiah Bart-
lett & Robt. Morris. A Contract was en-
tered into between Phil. Livingston of the
State of N. York & the said Com[te] That the Sum of
20000 £ Cont[l] Money shall be now advanc'd
& paid by the said Com[te] to the said P. L. to be laid
out by him in flour & other produce of these
Colonies & shipp'd on board a vessel or vessels
to be by him chartered for that purpose, to
some proper port, or ports in Europe & there
disposed of on the best terms. And the nett
proceeds of the said Cargoe to be laid out in
such woollen & other goods as the said Com[te]
shall direct & shipp'd for the said Colonies
See Rec[d] fol. 40.
p. 24 Phil[a] Com[te] Jan[y] 4th 1776. At a meeting
of the Com[te] of Sec[y] Present Sam[l] Ward
Benj[a] Franklin Rob[t] Morris, Josiah

424

Bartlett, & Mc Kean. A Contract was
entered into between Silas Deane & Bar-
nabas Deane of the Colony of Connec-
ticut & the S.d Com.rs That the Sum of
Thirty thousand dlls Cont.l Money now
advanced & paid by the S.d Com.rs of Sec.y
to the S.d Silas Deane & Barnabas Deane
shall be laid out by them in the pro
duce of these Colonies & ship.d on board
proper vessels to be by them chartered for that
purpose to some proper ports in the Sou.n
west Indies & Europe & there disposed of on
the best terms, & the nett proceeds of
such Cargoes laid out in the purchase
of such Goods, wares & merchandises
as the S.d Com.rs of Sec.y shall direct &
shipped for the U. S. A. C. Reg. fol. 42.

Jan.y

1776

p 25/ Jan.y 11th 1776 At a meeting of the Cte
Present Sam.l Ward, Th.s M.Kean, Josias
Deane, B. Franklin & Rob.t Morris

A Contract was entered into between Oswald
& Geo.e & Joseph both of the County of Phil.a
& the S.d Comm.e for manufacturing Salt Petre
Rec.d fol. 46

Jan.y 19th 1776 At a meeting of
the Comm.e of Secrecy — Present S.l Ward, Robert
Morris B. Franklin, Josiah Bartlett & Joseph
Hews — a Contract was entered into between
the S.d Comm.e & G. Huber of the County of North
ampton for manufacturing Salt petre Rec.d fol. 50

p. 26/ Phil.a 29th Jan.y 1776 — Gentlem. Please to
pay to Matthias Aspden 60 lbs. 3 Qrs. Wt for powder
purchased of him for the use of the U. S. To
Mess.rs Hillegas & George Clymer Rec.r Treasurers
of the U. S. — Sam.l Ward, Rob.t Morris, Joseph
Hews, Thos. M.Kean, Josiah Bartlett, Rob.t
Alexander. — We the undersigned a
Committee of the Comm.e of Sec.y appointed by the

Honble Cont^l Congress do hereby certify that by
order of the Congress we summoned of Mr Ichabod
Webster lately imported into this City by him a
mounted to 2106 dlls to the Com^rs of Impost on
Observal^ns for the City of Rhode Island &c Saml
Ward, R. Alexander, Joseph Bartlett, Thos McKean
Joseph Hews, Robt Morris.
p 28. Agreeable to a Resolve of the Cont^l Con-
gress, We the Subscribers, by them appointed
a Committee of Safety do hereby authorize &
empower Nathl Greene Esqr of North Kingstown
to load & repel or repair for the protection
thereof, Horn Cattle, Sheep, Hogs, Provisions
agreeable to the resolves of the amount
of 10,000 dlls. This repel or Vessels not to
sail till further orders from this Com^tee
To the Com^tee of Safety, Rhode Island, Philad^a
Jany 29th 1776. Saml Ward, R Alexander
Joseph Bartlett, Thos McKean, Jo: Hewes
Robt Morris. I do hereby certify, that the
Subscribers to the above order were a Quorum

P: 305

of the Com[te] of Sec[y] appointed by Com[y]: Have full power & authority to Issue the above order by them subscribed. Phil[a] Jan[y] 29, 1776

John Hancock Pres[t]

p: 29 / We the undersigned a Quorum of the Com[te] of Sec[y] appointed by the Hon[ble] Con[gress] do hereby certify that by order of the Com[te] we purchased of Mr Jacob Money a quantity of Salt petre lately imported into this City by him & other Gentlemen employed on the voyage amounting to 1023, 3, 4 P[ou]n[d]s Clear[t] — To the Com[te] of Inspection & Observation for the City & Liberties of Phila[a] — Saml Ward, Rob[t] Alexander, Jos: Bartlett Tho[s] M:Kean Jos: Hewes ~~& Robt Morris~~.

~~We hereby [illegible] the Purchase [illegible] & Expended~~

Agreable to a resol[n] of the Com[te] of Sec[y] We the subscribers by them appointed as a Com[te] of Sec[y] do hereby authorize & empower

Mr. J. Dennis of S. Carolina Memb. to Com.
the Brigantine Cornelia Rd. Jenn Master w.
the produce of that Colony Philad. Jan. 24.
1776, To the Comm. of Safety or Committee of
Inspection & Observation in that Colony. Saml
Ward, Robt. Alexander, Josiah Bartlett, Thos
M:Kean, Jos. Hewes.

Jan. 30. I do hereby certify that the Subscribers
to the above order are a quorum of the Comm.
of Safety &c &c John Hancock

Phila. Jan. 29. 1776. Agreeable to a Resolve
of the Cont. Congress the Subscribers by
them appointed as a Committee of Safety do
hereby authorize & empower Robert
Morris of the City of Philadelphia
Merch. to load the Ship Nancy Capt. Dirke
with the produce of these Colonies (Horns
Cattle, Sheep Hogs & poultry excepted) agreable
to a resolve of Congress. To the Committee of

Inspection

Inspection & Observation for the City & Liberties of Philad.a Sam.l Ward, Robt. Alexander, Jos: Bartlett, Tho.s M'Kean Jos: Hews.

p. 31 Comm.e Feb.y 1.st 1776. At a meeting of the Com.rs & Sec.y present Sam.l Ward, Benj.a Franklen Th.s M'Kean, Jos: Bartlett Robt. Morris & Jos. Hews Esq.rs A Charter party was executed between s.d Com.rs of Sam.l King & Jos: Harper of the City of Philad.a Mariners for freighting the Brigantine Cornelia whereof the s.d James King & Josiah Harper were Owners & Tho.s Lynn master for a voyage to be by her performed in the Service of the U.C. Reg.s fol. 60 &c —

p. 32 Phil.a Com. Ch. Feb.y 3.d 1776 At a meeting of the Com.rs & Sec.y present Sam.l Ward, Benj.a Franklin, J. Alsop, Josiah Bartlett, Tho.s M'Kean, Jos: Hews & Th.s Lewis

A report being made to the s.d Committee

by Col. Sam[l] Mifflen & Capt. Mason that a certain vessel was at or near Cape May on board of w[ch] there was a quantity of powder & shot, belonging to the U.C. the Com[e] directed the s[d] Col. Mifflen & Capt. Mason immediately to proceed to the s[d] Cape or other place where s[d] vessel might be & take every proper measure to get the s[d] vessel into Morris river, or some other safe place & get her unloaded with all possible dispatch & employ proper Waggoners to carry the s[d] powder & shot safe up to this City as soon as possible.

Com[e] Ch: Feb[y] 15[th] 1776. At a meet[g] of the Com[e] of Sec[y] present Sam[l] Ward, Jo Hazlop, T. Lewis Jos: Hewes Th[s] M[c]Kean, Josiah Bartlett, Rob[t] Morris & Rob[t] Alexander. Resolv'd. That it is the opinion of this Com[e] it w[d] be more for the interest of the U.C. to confine the importation of Indian goods to one set of Gentlem[n] than to divide it.

h: 33/ Com[e] Ch: Feb[y] 15[th] 1776 At a meeting of the

Com.ee of Sec.y present Sam.l Ward, Benj.a Franklin
John Alsop, Jos. Hewes, Wm.m Lewis & Robt.
Alexander. A Contract was entered into
between Willing Morris & Co.a of the City of Phila.a
Merch.ts & Com.rs — That they the said W. M. & Co.
shall & will with the utmost dis-
patch they can possibly & prudently make
procure by themselves or their Agents the quan-
tity of 2000 barr.s good Gunpowder, one
thousand stand good Arms & 12 brass
field pieces 6 pound.r Reg: fol.
p: 34) Com.e Ch.b 6.6.1776. At a Meeting of the Com.ee Sec.d
present S. Ward J. Alsop B. Franklin, J. Hewes
J. Bartlett & T. Lewis. A Contract was entered
into between Josiah Hewes of the City of Phila-
delphia Merch.t An Attorney in behalf of
Nic.s & Jo.s Brown of Providence Rhode Island Mer-
by virtue of a power of Attorney to the s.d Josiah
(see Reg:) of the one part & the s.d Com.ee of the other

2000 Barrels from 1000 Brass Six pounders 12.

That a voyage or voyages shall be undertaken to some proper port or ports in Europe for the speedy procuring 10,000 good strong Blankets for Soldiers at 4/6 or 5/ ster.d or near that price for each Blanket, 9200 y.ds of 6/4 broad Cloth the colours brown & blue for Officers & Soldiers Uniforms & 800 y.ds of 6/4 broad Cloth of different colours suitable to face them, the greatest part of the Cloths being for Facings to be about 4/ st.g p.r y.d that for the Officers about 6/, 10 tons lead & 250 stand good Arms such as are used by the Infantry of France, with 50 barls 1000 lb each of good gunpowder &c

Blankets 10,000
B. Cloth y.ds 19,000
Lead 10 tons
Arms 250
G.P. 50 brls

Reg: fol. 55.

p: 35 Lords Ch. rec.d 7 y. 1776 At a meet.g of the Comm.ee of Secy Present Saml Ward. B. Franklin Jon: Hewes, Wm. M.Lean & Robt. Alexander

A contract was agreed upon to be entered into between John Alsop, Francis Lewis Silas Deane, Philip Livingston & Robt. Morris and

and the S. Lemons for exporting the produce of
those Colonies to the amount of 40,000 £ W.C.
& purchasing with the proceeds such goods
as they shall be directed.

A Petition from Pierre Le Barque referred
to this Comtee was also read & granted under
the usual restrictions

p. 36, Com. Ch. Feb. 7 13 & 16, At a meeting
of the S. Comtee Present Seth Ward, J. Alsop, T.
Lewis, Robt. Morris & Joseph Hewes. The
Comtee brought in Jos Donaldson 1635 lbs. powd.
at 25 ℔ Cent. Curr. 7 pr ℔ £408, 15. Gave him
an order on the Comtee Treasurer for 1020 lbs
in full for the powder. Also a Certificate of the
Comtee of Inspection & Observation for Philadelphia for
the purchase of the same. — Granted to
Benjn Harrison junr. Esq. of Virginia a Per-
mit to load the Brigantine Nancy —
Master with produce of that Colony & export same.

1635 lbs.

[illegible] meeting [illegible] present [illegible] Ward
John Dickinson, Rob. Morris & Jos. Hewes Esq.rs
[illegible] Master for a voy-
age to be performed [illegible] in the service of the U.
from York River, in the Colony of Virginia &c.
fol: 64. — Feb.y 13. 1776. At a meeting of the Com.ee
Present Sam.l Ward Esq.r Chas. Josiah Bartlett &
Lewis, Th.s M:Kean, Jos. Hewes. — A Contract was
entered into with Hodge Bayard & Co.y for import.g
a number of good arms for the use of the U.
for which purpose the C. C. shall advance to
the s.d Hodge Bayard & Co.y the sum of 5000 £ St.g
in Bills of Exchange on Holland, or in specie
vide Reg.r fol: 72.

p. 38 —

p. 39 Com.ee Ch. Feb.y 14 1776 — At a meeting of the
Com.ee of Sec.y Present Sam.l Ward, B. Franklin
Thos. M:Kean. F. Lewis. Rob.t Alexander, Robert
Morris, Jos. Hewes — The Com.ee drew an order on

favour Robt Smith was ord.d a warrant upon the Com.te Treasurer for 266 2/3 Dlls. Also an order on Mr. Mestock the Storekeeper for 10 ton of Saltpetre to be transported to the Com.te de virtenois powder mill in the province of N. Y. A letter to Messrs. Pearse Penet & Co. was read, approved & signed, by the Com.te Feb.y 16.th 1776. At a meet.g of the Com.te present Sal Ward, Robt. Morris, Jos. Hewes, Jo. Alsop, T. Lewis & Wm. M.Kean. A letter to m.r J. D. Schweighauser at Nantes was read, approved & signed by the Com.te A list of goods was agreed upon to be shipp by m.r Schweighauser the Com.te Reg.r fol. 79 The Com.te drew an order on the Treasurer in favour of Willing, Morris & [redacted] for 23333 Dll.s being for bills of Exchange purchased of them for the use of the U. C. Granted a Permit to Willing, Morris & Co.y to load a vessel or vessels with the produce of these Colonies (horned Cattle, sheep, hogs & poultry excepted) to the amount of 23333 1/3 Dlls for the use of the U. C. A list of goods proposed to be

30 imported by Majr. Langdon, Alsop
& Lewis agreed to
p: 41 Comte Ch: Feb.y 7th 1776 At a meeting of the Comte
of Secy Present Saml. Ward, Thos. M.Kean Jr. Alsop
& T. Lewis, Jos: Bartlett, Robt. Alexander, Jos: Hewes
& Robt. Morris. A list of goods proposd to be imported
by Silas & Barnabas Deane agreed to. A Contract
proposd by Mr. Gary to Bilboa approved & Con-
tracts ordered to be drawn — Feb.y 20 1776. At
a meeting of the Comte Present Saml. Ward, Benj.a
Franklin, Thos. M.Kean, Jos: Hewes, Jos.a Bartlett
& Robt. Alexander — A Contract was entered into
with Jno. Alsop, Phil. Livingston, T. Lewis, Robt.
Morris & Silas Deane for the import.n of such goods
wares or merchandize as the Comte of Secy shall
direct. Rej: fol: 87. ——— p: 41. Comte Ch. Feb.y
20th 1776. At a meeting of the Comte of Secy Present
Saml. Ward, J. Alsop, T. Lewis, Jos: Bartlett, Rob. Alex
ander, Robert Morris, B. Franklin — a Contract
was entered into w.th J. Langdon of N. Hampshire &c.
for import.n of such woollen or other goods as the
Comte shall direct — Drew an order on the Trea-
surer for 10,000 dlls in favor of Mr. Langdon
Also a permit to export the produce of Pensa
Colonies

Letters to that assembly agreeable to the Resolution. — A Charter party was entered into with Sam.l Stevens of the City of Phil.a March.t for Brig.t Ship Sally, to S.d Com.rs — A Permit was granted for — Ship to sail She being loaded by a former Permit of this Com.rs — A letter to Mr. J. D. Schweighauser of Nantes was read, approved & signed. — Instructions to Tho.s Rawlins Master of Ship Sally above signed by Com.rs. — p: 42 Com.rs Ch. Feb.y 23 1776. At a meeting Pres.t Sam.l Ward, B. Franklin, J. Hosp. Rob.t Morris, Jos: Hewes Jos: Bartlett & Rob.t Alexander. A Charter party with Blair M.cClenachan owner of the Ship Hancock & Adams was executed. The Com.rs signed a letter to Mr. Schweighauser also Instruct.ns to Capt. Sam.l Smith Ordered That Mr. R. Morris write to Mrs. Jonathan Hudson, Baltimore & offer

hire 6/p Cwt. for wheat &c to proceed to
board the ship Molly, Dan.l Devine Mast.r The
Com.te to pay him 14 Ster.g p.r Cent. freight & 5 p.r
Cent Cadier with customary additions if Engages
further & to insure the ship valued at £3000 Curr.y
Col. Roberdeau to settle the Charter & value of
the vessel he shall employ for the Continent
p: 43 Feb.y 23. 1776 — Com.e H. At a meeting of
the Com.e Present Cam.l Ward, B. Franklin
Jos.a Bartlett, Rob.t Morris Jos: Hewes & Jo. Hart
A permit was granted to J. & Peter Chevalier
to load the Ship Union with the produce &c
& export the same. — Feb.y 26.th 1776. At
a meeting of the Com.e Present C. Ward, C. Hop
Josiah Bartlett Rob.t Morris & Jos. Hewes
A Charter party between the Com.e & J. Brown
& Co. of Philad.a Merch.ts was signed. — Ordered that
Mr. Rob.t Morris ship a Cargoe of produce
on board the Bizard. — Capt. Moor for
Carolina, the nett proceeds to be applied, to
the purchase of Rice, Indigo &c & he is ordered
to ship from thence to Europe. — Dr. Franklin
afterwards present — An order issued to the
Com.e Treasurers in favor of Rob.t Erwin for 400
dlls in Rec.t of the waggon service.

Secy Com.ee Ch. Feb.y 26.th 1776. At a meeting of the Com.ee Present, Saml Ward, B. Franklin, Jos.a Bartlett, J. Alsop, Robt. Morris & Jos: Hewes. A permit was granted to Mr. Jac.b Mercy of this city Merch.t to load the Ship King of Prussia with the produce of these Colo.s for the benefit & Agreeable to the Resolves &c

Feb.y 28.th 1776 Gave Mr. Lee an order for two tons Salt petre, an order to the Delegates of N. Carolina for 100 lb powder.

March 2.d 1776. Gave an order to George Leech for one ton of Salt petre.

Secy Com.ee Ch. Feb.y 29. 1776

At a meeting of the Com.ee of Sec.y Present Sam.l Ward, Benj. Franklin, Tho.s M:Kean Jos.a Bartlett Robt. Morris. A Charter party with Jacob Mercy of this City Merch.t for the ship King of Prussia Tho.s Donamen Master was signed by the Com.ee

a Sloop to Sail by with Bogue & Swaine & Briggs of this City Merch.ts for Ship Grace Ja.s Irwine Master was also signd. — Another with M.r Mecklenaghan & Jackson of D.o Merch.ts for Ship Thame — Leslie Mast.r also signd

Feb.y 28 — At a meeting of the Comm.e Present Sam.l Ward, Benj.a Franklin Joseph Hewes Josiah Bartlett & J. Alsop. An order was drawn on the Cont.l treasury in favor of Jacob Winey for 12268 4/6 Dlls for Arms & Ammunition purchased for the U. C. Ukraine a Certificate of the purchase of the same.

March 1.st 1776. At a meeting of the Comm.e Present Sam.l Ward. B. Franklin. J. Alsop. Rob.t Morris Jos.a Bartlett Rob.t Alexander. Granted a Permit to the Ship Thame Hugh Leslie Master, to sail, She being loaded by a former permit, agreable to p: 46. Comm.e Chamb.r March 1.st 1776.

At a meeting of the Secret Committee

Present

Present Messrs Hand J. Clapp, Jos. Hewes, Gov.
Bartlett & Robt Morris.

A Contract was entered into with Mr.
Robt Morris & John Ross of this City
Merch.ts A Charter party was likewise
entered into with Benjn Gibbs of the same
place Merch.t The Comm.e determined
Mr. Gouverneur should not be put upon
the same terms as before as accepted.

Agreed that Congress should be com.d
to proceed with their importations, that
Mr. Adam Babcock may load a vessel
with potash, Sail &c for Europe to the amount
of 10,000 dlls. Gave an Order to Mr. Ives
for a ton of Salt petre.

Fryday Com[e] Ch. March 6[th] At a meeting
of the Com[e] Present the [M]r Wan, J. Franklin
J. Alsop, Jos. Bartlett Jos[h] Hewes & Rob. Alexander

An order was drawn on the continent. Sea
Sever in favor of [M]r Jo[s] Smith for 8000 Dlls on Acc[t]
of wages on service. — At a meeting of the
Committee Pres[t] J. Wan. J. Alsop. T. M[c]Kean,
R. Morris & J. Bartlett. A charter party with [M]r Wm
Smith of the City Broker for the Brigen[e] Rachel. A.
Belgiem Isherwood Master was executed, also In
structions to said Master signed — Another with
Jonath[n] Hudson of the town of Baltimore Merch[t] Merch[t]
for Ship Molly & Lawrence Master was likewise signed
[M]r Adam Babcock having presented an estimate of
cargo for Europe amount[g] to 20,000 Dlls. Agreed
that instead of the Contract proposed 4[th] inst[t] for 10,000 Dlls
he might load a vessel or vessels with potash, sal, bees-
wax &c to the amount of but not exceed[g] 20 000 Dlls
& to export the same for the benefit of the U C. to
Bordeaux in France for w[ch] he is to receive the
usual Commissions for exports & Imports
his Partner being a party with him in the Contracts.

p. 46 March 7. 1776 At a meeting of the Secret (cont.
Present S. Ward B. Franklin J. Alsop J. Hewes
J. Bartlett W. Alexander. A Contract with Joshua
Wadsworth Esqr was signed by Comm. Reg: fol: 143

p. 49 March 8. 1776 At a meeting of the Secret Comm.
Present S. Ward B. Franklin, J. Alsop, Rob Morris
& Jos Hewes — An order drawn on the Treasurers
in favor of Chs Biddle for one thousand one hund?
& 66 Dlls ℔ 3/6 in full for a quantity of Sculpture pur-
chased of him, also a Certificate of the purchase.
An order drawn on the Treasurers in favor of
Wm Paul for 374 1/3 Dlls in full for a quantity of
powder, also a Certificate of the purchase. Do. in
favour of Reynold Coats for 2067 Dlls for powder
consigned to (receipt by Th? Thomas of Newberry
port, also a Certificate of purchase) granted a
permit to Thos Yorke to load the Brigantine
Holly, with the produce of these Colonies (bound
to any Port in Europe except) not to sail without further
orders from the C. Congress to purchase a Box of
Cutlery (Mr Towers to value them) of Wm Anthony
Morrison. — p. 49 L.C. March 7. 1776. Ata

S. Petre 106 b
G.P. 3255

J. Alsop for Bartlett for [illegible]

Drew an order in favor of Lt Colo Selfridge and another in favor of Capt Lee except Mr Alexander Drew an order on the Treasurers for 1600 Dollars in favor of Selfridge for the U.S. Drew an order on the Commissary for 100 Bushels Oats for Capt Heth's Horses Drew an order for the use of the Guard appointed to escort provisions to the camp near Cambridge March 8th 1776 Drew an Order on the Commissary for 5 tons of hay for Virginia Rifle Regt. On the Board proceeded to settle Mr C. Morris Drew an order on the treasurer for 32 1/3 Dollars in favor of Mr Brown on account of the Wagon service

p. 51. March 9th 1776. Drew an order on the Commissary for one ton of hay for Middlebrooks Maryland Gave orders to Col Shea to send two companies of Soldiers to escort the wagons going to Virginia Drew an order on

on the Treasurer for 600 ℔ in favor of Robt
Morris assignee for the use of Jeremiah
Wadsworth for the use of the U. C. March 18th Do
on the Treasr. for 500 ℔ Powder to be deliver'd
to the Delegates of Maryd. for the use of the
Inhabitants on Canal 17 March 20. Com-
municated with Mr. H. Gorhe's Letter & Lr. from
Mr. Jno. Hancock to the Treasr. for Money — p. 52. March
21 1776. The meet'g of the Sec'y. Present
J. Ward Esq. Josep Cabot Alexander Scott
Morris, Drew an order dated 13 inst. on
the Cont. Treasurer in favor of Robt. Mor-
ris & John Ross for 30,000 ℔ to account of
Contract made 1st. March inst. Do. in favor
of Wm. Bingham for 1000 ℔ 6/8 for his Commissn.
for transact'g business for the U. C. Do. in
favor of Levi Henry Meriwether for 91 ℔ for
the same number of Rattle Spice bought
him for the U. C. Executed a Charter
party with John Dorsius & Butler

owners of the brigantine Dolphin W. Moore master to Bordeaux in ballast &c. with Wm Moore master of a Brigantine for a voyage to S. Carolina. Drew an order on the Treasurers in favor of Graham Bakman, Boyd & Ramsay for 405 £ 2⅔ dlls in full for arms Ammunition purchased of them. Also Certificate of the purchase of Arms & Ammunit.

granted a permit to Capt. Moore Master of the Brigantine Dolphin &c. loaded on account of the Cont.l to depart the port with her cargo. Ayes 8. Noes 3. The same was signed by the Council & Secy present Rob. Morris B. Franklin, J. Wilson, Jos. Reese & Jos. Clay Esqrs

The Com.e proceeded to the choice of a Chairman, Mr. Ward the late Chairman being confined with the Small-pox) & unanimously elected Mr. Robt. Morris — Drew an order on Mr. Robt. Towers Com.y to return to the Comm.e of safety of this Province the number of muskets borrowed of them for the Continent also to return to the Com.e 1206 ℔ powder likewise borrowed of them. Agreed that Mr. Hudson of Baltimore, who proposes going to Europe in the ship now by Capt. Lawrence

R. M. Chairman

loaded on Captain Read for Cadiz, if he delivers
the Cargoe at Cadiz shall be allowed £50 ♉
for his care & trouble. Issued an order to
Robt Towers to deliver to the order of Robt
Morris Esq. the Cargoe imported in any Goods by him
provided he N. York & there delivered to the
order of the Com: Com: Office

p: 54 March 11. 1776 At a meeting of the Comm.
Present Robt Morris, B. Franklin J. Alsop, Jos-
Hewes & Rich. Henry Lee appointed one of the
Committee of Secrecy by Congress this day
Issued an order on Robt Towers Com.r to de-
liver to the Commissioners for building &c the
Frigates Montgomery agreeable to a resolve
of this date — Issued an order on the
Treasurer in favor of Mr Sam.l Meredith & Capt
Mason for 92 Dll.s for services done the Colo.
in looking after the Cargoe of the Brig. Thanet
Issued an order in favor of Mr. J.s Mesplon for
2379 dlls for prime cost of the Brig. Chance &
other expences bore by him in looking
after the Cargo of the s.d Brig. D.o in favor

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Towers Com.t to deliver to Capt. Bleecker
~~Herodt~~ of the Jersey Light Horse, Stores from.
agreeable to a Resolve of June 9th Inst.
for delivery of that quantity to the Jersey de-
legates — The Com.te were pleased this day
to appoint Mr Brown an assistant Sec.y
Executed a Charter-party with Mr Boyd & Co
for Ship Lion — March 21st 1776. Drew an
order on R. Towers Com.t to supply Mr Tilo
Knight 21 w.t 2 qrs. quantity of Powder to prove
12-4 p.r Cannon for the use of the P. of N.C. The Com.t
to return Mr Knight's receipt for the quantity
delivered. — March 26. 1776. Upon a letter
being produced from the Sub Comm.t of In-
spection in this City certifying that it was their
opinion Mr J. Wiley should pay all expences
of putting the arms into proper order, lately
purchased of them by this Con.s Res.d That the Chair
man should speak with the matter with
Mr Wiley — another letter from Y. S. Wing
likewise produced giving information of the arri
val of 1 Cor: gun 9 p.r & 29 muskets in the Schooner
Mercury Capt Bowen Res.d That the Chairm.n

Brown
A.C. Sec.y

direct

direct the Com. Com. Conveyance to examine the ammunit. & purchase the same on the best terms. — A Charter party w. J. & Peter Thevenier for the Ship Union J. Harvey Master was signed by a quorum of the Com. A Charter P. with R. Blair Mecklenburgh for the ship Hope, J. Curwin Master, signed by a Quorum D. with Jos. Wallace for Brig. Polly M. Fadden Master, signed by a Quorum.

p. 56 — March 26th The Chairman dispatches an order to all masters of vessels &c to repair immediately within the Chesapeake before intelligence of a men of war & tender being arrived in our capes — A letter from Mr. Langdon being produced & read, Ordered that the Chairman answer it — March 27 At a meeting of the Com. this day, Present R. Morris, R. H. Lee, Th. Livingston, J. Alsop, Th. M'Kean & J. Hewes. The Chairman produced a letter from Jos. Babcock Dep. dated Westerly 20th March engaging to be security for his Son's contract. Also an order from

Adam Babcock Esq. contract for
2000 Hhds stipulated to be p. herein by his Con-
tract. In consequence of which is an
order on the Continental Treasurer for the
above sum in favor of Adam Babcock
for acct of Jo. Babcock as p. his receipt of this date
Ordered That Mr. Morris dispatch the Sloop
Betsey Capt. Tucker directly with a
cargoe of Provisions for Bermuda in
order to send Silas Deane Esq. on that
Island, that he may from thence obtain Silas Deane
a safe passage to Europe in order to exe-
cute with dispatch the contract for Indian
goods. —— p. 57. April 2d 1776, At a meeting
of the Com. Sec. Present Robt. Morris, Benjn
Harrison, J. Alsop, P. Livingston, R. H. Lee for
Lewis & Robt. Alexander. A letter from Nich.
Brown & John Brown dated Providence
March 20 being produced & read — Ordered That
the Chairman answer it, express. that the
Com. are glad to hear of the arrival of the

goods mentioned therein. When the Marine Comm.ee determine, a disposition of it will be ordered, in the mean time they may send no one Invoice of the cost & Liners are ordered otherwise. A Letter from Mr. J. Langdon was read dated Portsmouth 19 March — Ordered that the Chairman answer it, inform Mr. Langdon that if the Genl. gives orders for the Powder, it is to be delivered, if not, to wait the orders of this Comm.ee — Ordered an order on Rt. Towers Comm.r to deliver Messrs Wm. Henry & Co. 15 Brl. Powd. to prove same Mr. Weeks agreeable to Res: of 29th March — R. Towers Comm.r having delivered our late Chairman Saml. Ward Esq.r (when sick) 5 returns of powder Waters (dates from 10th to 30th March they did not appear to the Comm.ee before this day, but are now in our possession.

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The Commissary has made an the following return of Powder in the Magazine dated the 31st of March

Lewis 29 Casks — 60 lb
Bayard & Co. 89 h. bar. 4628.
Hazlehurst 5 qr Casks — 135
Lees 8 brls 13 half brls 11 qr barrels — 1800 lbs Total 6613.

A Charter Party with J. Tucker Master of the Sloop Betsey for the Sloop was signed by a Committee. — p. 50. Apl 8. Issued an order on Robt Towers Com.y to supply Capt Lamb. Weeks with a sufficient quantity of powder to prove 6 scale 16 Six Cannon & return the quantity delivered as for the use of the Ship Repisal on Cont. Service April 6th 1776 — Do to deliver Phil Moore & Co Owners of two Privateers now fitting out, 1,200 lb pound. pursuant to a Resolve of the Honble Congress. Mr Robt Chairman received at the same time for the above pound.y 100 £ in full.

Apl 6th 1776 At a meeting of the Committee of Safety this day Present Robt Morris Esq. M.Kean J. Alsop, Ph. Livingston R. H. Lee, Jos. Hewes & R. Alexand. Jones

Issued an Order to Mr. Jones Comm.t to deliver
Capt. Bernard Romans 24 muskets likewise
an order to deliver to Col. St Clair 4 Pistols & Box
& Lead Shot — Issued an order on Treasurer
in favor of G. Lesch for Dlls 160 on acct. Issued
an order on Tim.y Matlack for 2 Casks No 7
Salt Petre to be delivered to G. Lesch.

April 9.th 1776 at a meet.g Pres.t B. Morris
J. Dickinson, Jos Howes, Rob.t Alexander, Th.s M.Kean
& R. H. Lee. —— p: 59 — Issued an order on
the Treasurers in favor of Sam.l Meredith &
Th.s Mifflin for 408 Dlls pert expenses attend.g
their looking after Brig.t Chance's Carg.o

D.o of J. & Peter Chevalier for 7084/10 Dlls being
the amount insured on the Ship two Brothers
Capt. Johnston laden by us for Jersey & taken
on her passage 26 Dec.r last by the Experiment
man of war Capt.n Robt. Hunter & sent condemn.d
as a prize as appears by Capt. Jonstons protest
before Matthew Clarkson Not. Pub. of 4 Pr. Sts

D.o in favor of S. Mifflin Esq.r for Dlls 6270
being the amount insured on Ship Peggy
Capt. Davidson loaden by us for Cadiz & taken

on her passage the 8th Dec.r last by the Viper
Sloop of war Capt. Jn.o Grace & since condemned
as a prize as appears by Capt. Davidsons
protest before M.r Clerkson N.P. dated 28th March
last. — Do. for 1244 Dlls 7/9. in favor of S. Mifflin
G. Clymer & S. Meredith being the balance of
their Acc.t dated in Sept.r 1775. — At a meet.g
April 11th 1776, Present R. Morris, J. Alsop
J. Rogers, R.H. Lee — Drew an order on
Messrs Duleney & Smith Dr. Duffield appointed
for preparing the Medicines lately purchased
to deliver to the order of the Comm.e of Congress
lately appointed for fitting out Medicine Chests
for the continental battalions under the
direction as they may require for public service
p: 60/ In compliance with an order of Cong.s
of this date ipsed an order on Robt. Towers
Comm.r to deliver one ton of Lon.d Pipe Staves
to the Maryl.d Delegates or their order.
Ipsed an order on the contenent.l Treasurers
in favor of Blair McClenachan or order for

£46.0.11, Curr.t being the amount of sundry Drug.s from Lisbon by order of Com.e to Sec.t Com.e
April 15. Issued an order on Henry Hosmer Esq.r N. York in favour of Isaac Decamp for the use of the Com.e of the Township of Middletown in Sussex County N. Jersey for 200 lb.s Powd.r for which he is to pay him at the rate of £25 P.C. per 100 lb.
Do. on Jam.s Mattock in favour of Do. for use of the Com.e in the above order for 100 flints which he is to pay the same price they cost, & to account with this Com.e — April 16. 1776. A meet.g of Com.e present Rob.t Morris, J. Alsop, Tho.s Mc Kean, Jo.s Hewes & Rich.d H. Lee & Rob.t Alexander A Charter party for ship Sally, Sam.l Howell Com.r was read & sign.d. Do. for Brig.t Patty R. Briggs Owner Do. Do. for Do. Jamaica Rachel J. Max well Herbert & Co. Owners Do. — p.r 61. Issued an order on the Cont.l Treasurer in favour Capt.n Tho.s Mason for Dlls 120 1/3 being the am.t of six rec.d for two double fortify'd cannon with carriages put on board the Schooner Peace

as per Orient together with 2 pr Tunnels
delivered on board Vessel (2 to go with Flints delivered
Jam. Matlock as per receipt — Granted an
order on R. Lewis Com.y in favour of Laurence
on account of the Inhabitants of Monmouth Co.y
N. Jersey, for 300 ℔ powd.r for w.h The Chairman
received the cash £7 5s. D.o on Jam.s Matlock
in favour of the above Laurence for 500
flints for w.h he is to pay Mr. Matlock
who is to acc.t with this Com.e for the same.
D.o on the Com.y to deliver Col. Hartley
fifteen ℔ Powd.r to repay so much borrowed
by him for the use of the Regiment. Res.d That
Mr. Morris charter a small Vessel
w.h about 150 or 600 brr. Flour for Martinique
to be consigned Messrs. R. Harrison & M.
maitre on account and Risque of the States to be
made in arms & ammunition What Mr. Le
maitre have liberty to ship the value of
£200 Curr.y in produce by the Vessel on his own Acc.t

p. 62. April 6th 1776 — Order to pay Com[mittee] of Observation for Chester County £30.

April 23 1776 — Gentlemen The Vessel comanded by you have detained the Brig[t] Polly Capt. M[c]Faden & Brig[t] Polly Capt. M[c] Isaac to be Inspected under Convoy of the West Town Boat, To your Care & Conduct I apply to you to procure two proper Pilots to carry down those two Ships by Cape May Chan[l]. The Ships have Orders to bring the Pilots up again, as soon as they have Safely landed the Cape. I am Gentlemen Respectfully Your very humble Serv[t] Robt Morris Chairman of the Sec[t] Com[te] To the Honble Committee of Safety of Pennsylvania.

April 24th 1776. At a meeting by Recommitment present B. Harris Wm M[c]Kean, Rtt. Lee, Jos: Hewes & R. Alexander, Agreed to a resolve of longress of this Instt. of Jonathan

Dolegates to Congress from the Province of
South Carolina Do. 2d. The Committee of
Mess.rs Rutledge & Livingston of Province of
Jersey Gent. Chyler to the Committee of
Canada Thos. Pond. manufacturer of Sheet
Smith — p.r 68. On Acct. Sam.l Miffs. Esq.
was produced as follows Philadelphia April
9.th 1776, Bot. of Morris Esq.r for the Committee of
Bot. of Sam.l Mifflin 5 Swivel guns &c

	£7,15 p.r pair	£39,7,6
5 ℔ Leadenball at 1/		5,13,3
5 lb Langrage		7,6
5 ℔ powder		13,10,0
6 Cartridges	10/	3,
		£37,10,3

Agreed to Ge. Therefore Ordered an Order on
the Treasurers in favor of Sam.l Mifflin Esq.r
for Dlls 100 13/3 in full of Acct. — A List of Medi.e
deem.d necessary for the Secret Service was
produced, Signed Verified by Mess.rs Dulany &
Wm Smith also a List of Sundries, part of
these purchased of Messrs Mulenaghs & were
deem.d most fit for Secret Service. Viz

Therefore agreed that Mess.rs Delaney
& Smith make sale thereof pursuant with
this Com.e for net proceeds. — Ordered that
the Chairman write Mess.rs Clarke Whipple
& Goddard of R. Island in answer to their Lett.r
of 15 April last & request them to forward
the necessary papers in their possession to this
Com.e — Ordered that Warrants issue
to Jn.o Gorke for £15 800 in part of the Brig.e
Betty, fitting out for the 1.st voyage, for which he is
to be accountable. — p: 64. April 25. 1776
In consequence of a Resolve of Congress this
date, ordered that the Com.e in favr
of Wm Mumford & Co. for the use of the
Commissioner Penobscot, N. Jersey, for
75 tuns Pond.r for which the Chairman issue
the Cash for £10,15. — April 26, 1776. Order
on Jonn.a Mattack to deliver Mr. Boswell
two Tons Saltpetre to be manufactured
by him at his powder mill. — In
Congress April 26. 1776, Resd. That the
Secret Com.e be directed to settle & repay

to the Colony of Connecticut Reposed Confidence
in Genl Washington for the Continent
to do what in their Judgment was best
for the public interest & the benefit of
Connecticut in Conjunction with the Delegates
of that Colony here in Philadelphia. Extract from
the minutes Chas Thomson Secy
April 29th 1776. Order on the Comtee for
Ston purchasing 5 swivel guns & all the Musketts
in his possession to be delivered Lambert
Wilkes Esqr for the use of the Ship, Re-
pressed, he to make return of those he
delivers. —— Genlt April 29. 1776. The
following Vessels being Laden on account of the
Continent, it is now intended to dispatch
them under the protection of the Ships of
war going down, therefore you are requested
to give the Owners permission to take
Coals on board as they may respectively ap-
ply for the same. By Order of the Secret Comtee
Robt Morris Chairman. To the Honble Commee
of Safety Philadelphia. Ship Hanover
Capt

Capt Harvey, Ship Hope Capt Cerwin,
Ship Sally Capt Coman Brig Rachel
Capt Pitt Brig Jamaica packet Capt
Berry: Mehes Sloop Fanny Capt Wm Buten
May 2d 1776 - Order in Com: Mattack in
favor of G. Leech for two Casks Saltpetre
At a meet: by the Comt present Both
Morris, Th: Wharton, Jos: Hewes. R. Hde
& Robt Alexander. A letter to Messrs
R. Harrison & Adrien de merite Merch
Martinique was wrote read & approved
Order on the Treasurers in favor of George
Meading & Co for Dlls 2 413/90 amount of an
Invoice of Sundries purchased by them &
shipped by this Comt on board the Sloop Fan-
-ny Capt Wm Bolton for Martinico consign
to Messrs Rue Harrison & Adrien demerite
& that Poland returns to be made in good
Soldiers muskets, double barrelled gun
locks & good Cannon & pistols proved.
A letter wrote D. Dr Shaw Rob was read
& approved of A letter from Th: Mumford

dated Groton April 17th was produced, & the
The Chairm.n was desired to write an Answ.r
request.g Mr. Mumford to forward nineteen
barrels Sulpher to Mr. Weaver's pond.g
mill & 10 barrels to Mr. Livingstons Mill
N. York province. An Affidavit of
Wm. Hogeboom & Jno. Mackay esq.r The
Gunn master of the Brig.t Cornelia was
produced & red. Vic. put up with Charter party
1666 / Ordered an order on the Genl. Treasury
in favor of Caswell Lee for 533 1/3 in part
payment for pond.g manufactured by him.
In Congress May 3. 1776. Resn. That the Comt.
of Sec.t Correspd.e be directed to draw 3000
pound.s to Hendrick Van Brunt for the use of
the Inhabitants of the township of Shrewsberry
to enable them to defend their sea coast
Extract from the minutes
Chas. Thomson Sec.y
In consequence of the above Resolve
Ordered an order on the Treas.r for 300
lb powder for Capt. Lee's Detachment
£75 — In Congress May 3.d 1776.

Res.d That the Sec.t Com.e be directed to send
300.lb Powd.r & a proportionable quantity of Lead to Lewis
town for the use of the troops stationed there.
p: 69 In Congress May 6. 1776. R. That the Sec.t
Com.e be directed to give proper orders for landing
100 Cannon & Bring to & Shipping the Cargo imported by
Capt. Young who is arrived at Egg Harbour.
May 6.th Wrote a Letter to Capt. Young of the
Sloop La Marine at great Egg Harbour, to deliver
to Robt. Irwin Esq.r Mess.rs his whole Cargo
of Salt petre, Arms & Powd.r taking his receipt for what
is so delivered & copy of wch he is to send to this Com.e
also obtained an order from the Presid.t for an Officer
& 12 men to guard & Convey the Arms to this City.
In Congress May 7.th 1776. Res.d That the Sec.t
Com.e be directed to procure & forward 12 field
pieces for the use of the troops in N. Carolina &
3 tons G. Powd.r for use of the Colony.
May 10.th 1776 I paid an order on Wm. Jowers
Com.r for 3 tons Powd.r to be delivered to the
Delegates of N. Carolina agreable to Resolve
May 8.th D.o on the Treasurers in favor of
Leech for 160 dlls in part of Contract for manufactured

Salt Petre into ferried. p: 68 / In Congress
May 8 1776. Resolved That the Secretary be directed
to sell to Messrs Wm & J. Hollingsworth 50 pound
for the use of the Inhabitants of upper Penns
neck in N. Jersey. Order on the Comptr
for the above Amount £10,15 for the same.
In Cong: May 10th 1776. Resolved That the Secretary
send forward 10 tons pound. to N. York. Do.
sell to Col. Daniel Potter Capt Daniel Marshall
2000 lb pound. & 1000 lb Lead for the use of the In-
habitants of Frog-town Cumberland County
N. Jersey. Order on the Comptr for 2000 lb
pound. to be delivered as above £50 for same.
May 11th 1776. Sir Please to deliver to Robt
Irwin, waggon Master or order 10 tons G. Pound.
to be forwarded to his Excellcy Genl Washington
agreable to the order of Congress passed yesterday
To Robt Towers Robt Morris Ch: Secy
p: 69 / In Congress April 29. 1776. Resolved That re-
turn of 50 pound. Present to Mr Morgan to be dis-
tributed to such Indians as the Agent shall
be convinced are in our interest. May 13th
Order

Order on the Com.ee to issue as above. In Cong.
May 11th 1776. Res.d That 2 Mills be prepar'd Instrum.ts & sent to N Car.
for the use of the troops in that Colony.
May 13. Order on Delany & Smith to deliver Bath as above to the Delegates for N.C.
May 11th Order on the Com.ee in favor of the
Delegates for the lower Counties for 500lb
specie to Resolves of the House of Assy. 2 Vol. Jrn.
copied p. 66. —— In Congress May 11. 1776
Res.d That the Sec.y Com.ee be directed to send
500lb pound.s to the Com.ee of Safety Dela-
ware govern.t for the use of the Militia
May 15 Order on the Com.ee for 500 lb pound.s
to the Delegates of the lower Counties as above.
p. 70 May 15th Order on Col.o Tim. Mattack
for one ton Salt petre to be manufactured
with gun powder at the Com.ee Mill under the
direction of Col.o Rudde.
May 16th Order on the Com.ee in favor of
Edw.d Keasby for the use of the Inhabitants
of Salem County West Jersey for 100 lb pound

66 Recd. the Cash & Lre — Order on the Treasurer
for 100 Dlls. in favour of Rob. Irvine in advance
on waggonage of 3 tons powd. to N. Carolina.
In Congress May 16 1776. Resd. That the Secret.
Comt. be directed to deliver to Col. Jos. Hord jun.
3 tons Salt petre to be by him manufactured
into gunpowd. for the use of the U.C. on the
same terms that others have agreed to manu-
facture it. That the Secret. Comt. be directed to sell
to Jos: Ellis 40 lb powd. a quantity of Iron ball
sufficient for 400 lb powd. for the service of the Colls
of N. Jersey — also to deliver to Col. Bird 200 lb pow.
& prove the Cannon he has made for the U.S.
May 16. Order on Rob. Towers in favour of
Col. Bird for 200 lb powd. as above — Do. in favr of
Jos: Ellis as above for N. Jersey. — Do. on Jno
Matlack for 3 tons Salt petre to be delivered to
Col. Hord. ——— Jr: 71. May 16th 1776. The
Chairman wrote to Messrs. Alsop, Living-
ston & Lewis of N. York to deliver Col. J. Hord jr.
nine bbls. Salt pr. & send us an Invoice thereof.
Manifest of the Salt petre & Powd. on board
the sloop Catharine Capt. Young as delivered
by him to the Chairman 42048 lb. Salt petre
40000 Musk. powder
21265 Cannon Do.

May 20th Order of the Com.e to deliver Messrs
Joseph Donaldson & Carson 50 lb powder agre-
able to Res: of Congress for Wm Cash acct £12.10

May 11th Order on Com: Stattick in favr
of George Leech for 2 Casks Saltpetre.

In Congress May 16, 1776 Petition from J
Donaldson & J. Carson read & Res: that the
Secret Com.e be directed to sell to the Petitioners 500 pounds
[p. 72] May 26th 1776. At a meeting of the Com.e Pres.t
M.r Morris M.r Howes M.r Lee M.r Bartle M.r
M.c Kean. A Charter party with G. Mead & Co for the
ship Nanny was signd. A letter from J. Langdon
dated Portsmouth April 22. was read & Conclud
the following Receit. Received Cambridge March
27. 1776 of Capt J. Langdon by the hands of Mr Jere
miah Libley 22 bar.s 1 half bar.l 181 pounds 6 oz 88
lb.s of L.d each one Cask con.g twenty six pounds &
a leg of L.d each one Cask con.g Nanny twenty six pounds &
8 Casks 15 Each in the whole Six Thousand two hun
dred & fifty one pounds powder all in good orde
except three Casks of ten pounds each are some
thing wanting Exceptd Thurber Com.y Artillery.

Ordered That a vessel not drawing more than
13 feet water be hired & loaded on Continent. Acct
to be dispatched to Cape Francois under de
rection of a proper Supercargo who is to sell
the vessel & Cargo with M. D'Beaumont of said
place, for the vessel & Cargo mentioned in
his letter to the Congress dated 6th April
last, referred by Congress to the Committee
p: 73 / An Acct. David Berrendge was pro
duced for the following Articles of Provisions

1 Bar: Pork, 268 lb	5/	£1, 16,
1 Bar: powder, 218 lb	5/	7, 15
		29, 11

Ordered that it be paid — Order on the Treasu
urer for 565 4/9 dlls in full for above Acct.
An Acct. of Joseph Copper Wheelwright for paint & hinds
& cooper's work amounting to £49, 18 was pro
duced — Ordered That it be pd. Order on the
Treasurers in favor of Jos. Copper Wheelwright for 131 dls
in full for the above. — Acct. for freight, carting
& other charges on Salt Petre sent to N. York was
produced by Joseph Fordeno Ordered to be pd. £17, 18.

Order

Order on the Treasurers in favor of S.ᵗ Borden
for 207£/90 dlls in full. — May 22.ᵈ Order on
Tom Matlack for Gun Salpetre to be delivered to
Arnold Peasely to manufacture into powder
at Boreham N. Jersey — also an order for 5 lb
Salpetre for same purpose. — May 23.ᵈ R. Jourdan
of Baltimore, Jonathan Hudson, on the Treasurers
for 1333/ dollars in part upon account of charges & de-
murrage on Ship Molly Isaac Hudson master
as per contract &c the Com.ᵉ for which he is to be
accountable. p. 74. May 25. 1776 Order on Robt
Towers for 750 lb Powder in favor of J. Wilcox
& J. & Peter Chevalier, who are accountable
for the same. — see p: 83 — Order on R.ᵗ Towers
in favor of Com.ᵉ of Safety Philadelphia, for half
ton of Powder for w.ᶜʰ they are to be accountable
to Congress. May 27.ᵗʰ 1776 Res.ᵈ That the
Secret Com.ᵉ be directed to send forward
with all possible dispatch 1 ton powd.ʳ &c.
to Com.ᵉ for defence of the frontier, & that
it to be lodged in Lake-fort 600. in R. Com.ᵉ
of West Augusta, 600 in R Com.ᵉ of West-
moreland to be used only in case that

Country is attacked — May 24th Order on
Com.te to deliver Bob. Jones 2 Guns from
Hon.ble D.r Tabe for use of the Army. — May 27
Order on Tim Matlack to deliver G. Leech 4
Casks Saltpetre to be manufactured with powder

28. Read an order on Tim Matlack for 3 tons
Saltpetre in favor of Oswell Eve to be manufactured
into powder. — p. 75. May 29 1776. Read an
order on the Treasurer in favor of Rob.t Towns
for 200 lb for waggonage from D.r to Fort Pitt. May 30.
1776. Read a Lett.r from the Com.te Secret Affairs
Matheus Hewes, Lee & Bartlett. The following Lett.r
was wrote to the Deputies, Doctor Hewes &
Collins whose Expedition is now under Consid.n
of the Continent — Sir Philad.a May 30. 1776
We are informed the men of war have left Cape
you are therefore to proceed to sea as soon as poss
ible, we have sent to the Admiralty Office to
keep a good look out for you timely
notice. to return if the Enemy should
block before you get out. — Ordered Jones
with Hewes. That the Secret Com.te be empow

Order of G. to have for the Mills for Gunpowd.
manufactured by him. — p. 711 June 8. 1778
Order on R. Towers to deliver G. Hubner 600 lb
Salpetre to be manufactured powder on account
account for with this Comte is to account
with Comte Safety of this Province — Order
on Tim. Matlack in favor of G. Hubner for
2 tons Saltpetre to be by him manufactured
into powder — 19 June 1778 Order on Tim
Matlack in favor of G. Hubner for 5 Cwt Salt
petre w. 33. 3/4. 19 lb. Tare 33 lb. to be by him ma
nufactured into powd.r — June 19. Order on
Tim: Matlack for 2 Cwt by Saltpetre to be deli-
vered to G. Lorck make.r a return of the weight
thereof. — Order on the Comte Treasurers for
266 2/3 Dollrs in favor of G. Lorck on part for manu-
facturing gunpowd.r — June 10.th Order on the
Comte in favor of G. Bayard, Jun.r Deputy Mas-
ter Genl to deliver to Powders for 5 30 p.
June 10.th order on Rob.t Towers for 1 ton
powder to be delivered Comte Safety Pennsyl.a
Jun

p. [illegible] for the year 1776. Resd. That the Secret. Comte. be directed to deliver to Col. Morgan for the use of his Battalion the 150 Arms and equipt. by Capt. Barry June 12. Rec'd a letter from Capt. Barry of the Lexington containing five Muskets which for [illegible] of Powder & by order of Congress ipsum and an order for Stevens to deliver the arms to Col. Morgan & the same Resd. to Robt. Towers Comm.

June 13th. Order on the Comm.ee to deliver Robt. Irvine 1 Gun pursd. to be forwarded to the Assembly or Comm.ee of Safety of the Lower Counties agreable to an order of Congress of this day — Also wrote to the Comm.ee of Safety of this province for a Supply of Lead for the same purpose. — June 13. 1776. At a meeting of the Comm.ee present Morris, Alsop Hewes, Lewis, Bartlett. The Papers relative to the seizure of the Brig.e Cornelia by the Lynch Man of War being produced & considered — Agreed that the following Resol.n

p. 7 [illegible] Brigantine [illegible] paid
The Humble Petition [illegible] to Mr Hooper &c
for the Brigantine Commerce taken by the Ayscough
Man of War 15 March last valued as per
Charter party £650,
Hire due on s.d Brigt from 1st Feb.y
to 15 March is 1½ months at £100 100
£ 830
Deduct 2½ p.r Ct for under
writing as customary 13
£ 817
Due on Mr Swingle's for 2170 2/3 Dlls
amt of the above Acct. Appeared before
Mat. Ellerson Notl. Pub: of Bart. Gallate a Ma
riner belonging to the Ship Grace under Char
ter party to this Comm.t & taken on her passage
to Virginia by the Dunmore Tender sloop
Fowey being read — Ordered That the value

Order on the Treasurer in favour of J. Yorke for £5.
& Comfort for the Regt. Bullets & small weight.
Do. in favour of Mich.l Jones & Co. for 12,000 lbs
agreeable to a Contract made with them 6th
& 8th Inst. — 5:00 — In Congress June 13.
1776. Resd. that the Secret. com.e be direct.d to
write the Commo. Gen.l of Artillery to
cause up the River to supply the Army
Defence Boat with such a quantity
of powder as to them shall
seem necessary. — In Congress June 15
1776. Resd. that the Sec.y com.e be directed
to deliver the powder lately imported
to Col Shee for the use of the Battalion under
his command. — June 27-1776 — Com.e met
pursuant to adj.t Prop. Hewes, Bartlett Lewis
& Contract with B. M.c Yorke was signed by the
Com.e & then a warrant was drawn & order
on the Gen.l Treasurer & delivered up to
the Agent of the Ship 8th river 300 lbs tob.o purch.d by com
on account of this Col.y in order that it may be
exported from Delaware Bay.

Vol. p: 81 — Letter from Mr Marbois ... read & considered by the Com.ee ... the Chairman write to ... Members ... Com.ee treat with them for supply ... from Germany, agreeable to the terms proposed in his letter to the amount of 30 or 40 000 ... for which he is to draw ... produce ... June 27th ... issued an order on the Com.ee to deliver ... Maxwell Nesbitt & Co. 1250 ... pounds ... to be ... on order (Congress Thursday) — In Congress June 28th 1781. That the Sec.y ... be directed to sell to the Com.rs of Salem in N. Jersey 300 lb pound. ... 1781. ... on the Com.ee for 300 lb pound. ... to the use of the Com.rs of Salem N. Jersey ... the same £5 L — p: 92 — In Congress June 29. 1781. Resd. That the Sec.y Com.ee be directed to sell 2 tons gunpowd. to the Convention ... for ... use of their Militia

(a) no such ... Congress ...

Ordered that the Secretary give Orders on
the Treasurer in favour of Mr. Woodcock for 40 Dlls
balance of the above Bill. — p. Ord. — Ditto on the
Treasurer in favour of Mr. Wm. Vic for £15.3.7½
being the amount of an Invoice of Goods pur-
chased by them & shipped on board the Sloop Ant-
friendship for Marblehead on Contl Acct.
Capt. Young's Bill for Service & Expences amount
ing to £19.2½ being produced to the Board — Ordered
that it be paid. Order on the Treasurer for 211 ½ Dlls
in full for the same. — A Charter party for the Bri-
gantine Cornelia & Molly Bot. Briggs Master
was signed by the Committee. — Do. for Ship Olive
branch George Kennedy M. Macallester Master
was signed by the Com.te — 6th inst. Signed an order
on the Com.ty to deliver to Mr. Brown waggoner 5
ton pond. to be by him transported to Hallowell-borough
in Virg.a & delivered to Genl Lee there, for the use
of the troops in the Southern department.
Sept. 5 — In Congress July 10th 1779. Res.d That the
Sec.y Com.e be directed immediately to deliver to
Mr. Q. Meage to be sent forward to Col. Moylan
a. M. G. ½ ton Salpetre. — July 10th Order
on Col. Mallack for 1½ ton Salt petre to be
forwarded

forwarded to Col. Moyle at York — Order on Wetherill for 2 tents & tarpaulins — Fri. Morgan July 8. 1776. Resd That the Secretary be directed to send 4 barrels powder to Genl Sullivan at Trenton & 4 to Genl Heath for the use of the flying camp — July 11. Resd That the Comte to sell Mr J. Cox, Hilltown powder for the use of the private vessel of war by him fitted out. July 11th Order on Robt Towers for 4 barrels powder to deliver to Jno Irvine to be sent Genl Heath for the use of the flying camp — Do for 1/2 ton ditto. John Cox Receipt for the same — July 12. Articles of agreement entered into with William Bullock Agent of the province of Georgia, whereon an order was drawn on the Treasurers for 20,000 Dollars to be by him laid out in the produce of that Colony Exported to the W. Indies The returns to be made in arms Ammunition & goods suitable for the Indians in the Southern parts of America. — July 16. 1776 The Committee met Present Mr. R. Morris, Alsop, Reeves, Livingston, Bartlett. The Committee having agreed to pay the just values insured on the different rebel letters agreable to the letters of Sheer Chester partys The following Orders were drawn on the Treasurers for that purpose.

in favor of J. V. Chevalier for 160 Dlls being in full for their Ship two Brothers taken the 26th Dec. last
in favor of S. Mifflin Esq. for 128 Dlls in full for his Ship Sally taken 8th Dec. last, in favor of King & Harper for 34 Dlls in full for their Brig. Cornelia taken 15th March last In favor of the Boys, Fergus M. Sloane & Robt. Barr in full for their Ship Grace taken 17th 5 3/5 Dlls.

After Mr. Howel, Chevaliers & M. Clanachan the petitioners to the Comt. being called in, it was agreed — That they make out their respective Accts. of the money actually disbursed by them in consequence of the detention of their respective vessels which will be p. them in case the vessels deliver their Cargo abroad, the Comt. is to allow them such reasonable compensation for the time the vessels were detained in this river as shall be hereafter agreed upon. — W. Alexander Gillon having delivered in his Acct. by which it appears to be 16284 13/90 Dlls remaining in his hands unexpended of the sum advanced him by Contract — Ordered The Chairman write to him for it in order, in his favor, for s.d Sum. — p. Cr. July 19. 1776. The Comt. met

present Messrs Morris, Hoop, Hewes, Lewis
Hewes Bartlett, Lewington — The Comm. agree
that Mr Morris purchase a large Sort to
be shipped on board a vessel belonging to the
Continent, now lying at Egg harbour — Order
on the Treasurers favor J. Hammon for 623 1/3 Dls
being amount of 55 Stand Arms delivered the
Delaware battalion on continental service — July
23. Order on the Comm.y to make up as many
musket Cartridges out of the Cont.l powd. as
he delivers for the flying Camp, & replace the
same, to the Comm. of Safety, also to estimate
& return the quantity of Lead contained in the
balls, that it may be kept in Longer spel
Lead. — July 25th Order on Michael Hil
legas Esq.r Treasurer for 72 Dlls in favr Ado
niah Peacock in part payment for mak.g
gun founder. — p. 83 — In Longs. July 30th
1776. Resd That the Secret Comm.e be desi-
red to supply the Battle Comp.a now en
camp.d from Lancaster with 1000 pound.s
of Rifle Lead. — July 30th Order on Comm.y
for 1000 pound.s Rifle Lead as above.

July 30. Ordered that Messrs. Thos. Howe, Jenkins, Livingston, Scott & Lenox be a committee to contract with J. P. Mumford of Rotterdam for imported dry goods from Holland agreeable to lists annexed to said Contract — Order on the Treasurer in favour of Jno. Donaldson for 3296 2/3 dlls being the amount of 5995 ℔ G. powd. purchased from him at 55 ℔ C. — p. 90 — Ins. Longs to July 31. 1776 Res. That 5 tons musket powd. be sent immediately to Genl Washington at N. York, that 4 tons G. powd. Musketts or such others as can be procured to the amount proper for field pieces be immediately sent to N. Carolina — Aug. 1. Order on the Treasurer in favour of J. Hubner for 300 ℔ in aid for manufacturing powder Aug. 2 Order on the Treasurer for 4 tons powd. favour Robt. Irwin & Co. Master to be forwarded to Genl Washington — Order on Treasurer for 4 tons powd. favr. R. Irwin & Co. Master to be forwarded to N. Carolina

3 Dec.

Order on the Com.ee of Safety in favour of G. Hubner
for 2 Brass Field Pieces proved at 24. 3 lb. Carriages
to be by him manufactured and proved.
In Congress Aug.t 5. 1776. Resolved That the Secret
be directed to deliver the Delaware
Battalion as many of the Arms lately im-
ported as will be necessary to arm them
completely — That the Com.ee deliver to
the Council of Safety of Delaware — of the Arms
in lieu of those had from them, & the re-
mainder to the Council of Safety of Pen-
sylvania, they to be accountable
Aug.t 5. 1776. Order on the Com.ee to deliver
the Delaware Battalion as many of the
Arms lately imported as will be necessary
to arm them — also an order to deliver
the Council of Safety of Delaware gover.
— of the Arms in lieu of those had
from them & the remainder of the
Council of Safety of Pennsylvania
agreable to the foregoing Resolve

In Congress Aug.t 6.th 1776 Resolved That the Secret.y Com.te be directed to deliver to the Delegates of N. Carolina 3 Eaton Jewel. for the use of the Frontiers in the District of that State — Aug.t 8.th Agreed on Ballot on the Com.tee as above — p. 92 —

Order on the Secretary favor of Jon.a Hudson of Baltimore for 20 Dollars in part for Passage of Capt. in his Ship Molly w.ch is to be in part payment of the sum insured on her by this Comm.n — Aug.t 9.th 1776. Com.te met. Present Morris, Hewes, Lewis, Bartlett, Livingston. Letter to J. P. Wetzel Esq.r respecting the Commiss.rs money in Holland on the credit of the U. S. was signed by the Com.tee — Letter from Mr. A. Gillon covering his draft on Messrs Charles Alley & Charles-town South Carolina for (a) A. Gillon & Co.
11 147 4/5 dlls likewise directing Mr. Morris to pay the bal.ce due to them by the

(a) It appears by Mr. Gillons letters to Rob. Morris that Rob. Morris was his Partner in the Contract, & w.ch the profits were very high. see his Letters in the Papers of the Sec.t Committee

Willing Morris & Co Petition Comt
read
Ordd That W. Morris
report the balance due Mr Gillon
by Messrs Willing & Morris to pay
the same to be credited by the Secretary
this Comtee has with the House, That
he transmit the draft on Mr Alley to
Boston to be sent with orders, that if provisions
can be purchased & shipped from that
State without any great delay to
invest the aforesaid Monies in the
Publick Funds. If this cannot be done then
the money to be sent to the Govr & Council to
award paying the wages of the troops in that
department. Aug. 10th 1776. Order on
the Treasurer for £1.9.6 Gordon in the State
of Connecticut in favour of Col. Wm Whipple
for three Spars for the use of the Cont.
Navy to be built in N. Hampshire
In Congress Sept. 13. 1776 Resd That
the Secretary be directed to pay unto

Lieut. Wilson with 42 Invalids, twenty two
Rounds powder. 1780 Ibs for the use of his
Battalion of Militia — Order on the Com.ty
in favour of Lieut. Wilson as above.

Recd. the Order on the Treasurer in favour
of Adam Jay Vencath, on part Imprest for
the manufacture of powder, for 300 £.
p. Ab — Decr. 15. 1776. Com.d Inv.t Ste-
vens. Mess.rs Morris Lewis, Bartlett
Lewis, Stevenson — Ordered that
Captain Read's Vessel be requested
to proceed, the Order of Convention
to the Ship Master, from Hav.e
de Grace in order that the Pass may
be procured, w.ch by contract is to
be p.d in proportion to 10 Sterl.g for a
barrel of Powder — The Com.e Consider'd
the favorable opportunity that now presents for
shipping off provisions from this port, & other
Ports to the Southward, the Enemy's men of war
being

being gone — Agreed That the sum of £2,000
ditto be advanced Mr Morris to be by Him laid
out in produce & exported on continental
acct — accordingly an order was Drawn
on the Treasurer in his favor for the Sum

The Committee have agreed with R. G.
Meade & Co Owners of the Brigantine
two friends Capt Vickery to charter sd
vessel, for a voyage to Hispaniola & back
at the rate of 7/6 Curr.y p Bar: of flour out-
ward, & 10/ Curr.y p Bar: powder inward. The
vessel to be insured by Comm.e value £1200

p: 95 Minutes of the 15th continued

Agreed order on the Treasurer in favor
R. Meade & Co for 619 73/90 Dlls being the amount
of their acct for sundry charges done months
freight of the Brig.ne Friendship — Order on
the Treasurer in favor of Robt Briggs for
340 being for freight of 85 Barrels from
St Eustatia — Do in favor Messrs Willing
Morris & Co for 4642 90 in full of a
balance due to them as p Acct dated 16 Inst. — Order on

p. The Treasurer for £266.13.6 in favor of Bayard Jackson & Co being value of the Brig Dickinson Master Seward by the Comm.e carried into Bristol on her passage to Newbern, by the Seamen, when She was seized & Condemned &c. in favor of Isaac Rucker for 792 lb being the amount of 1080 w.t powd.r at 5/ p.lb & 6 Stand Arms at 30/ p.r Stand purchased from him this date.—p. 96. In Congress Aug.t 8.th 1776. Res.d That the Secret.y be directed to supply Col. Galbraith w.t 9 lb powd.r & 27 lb lead, for the use of Three Comp.s of his Battalion—Aug.t 9.th 1776. Res.d that the S.d Comm.e be directed to deliver to the order of the board of war, such articles as are in their possession belonging to the Continent as in the opinion of the s.d Board of war are necessary for the Delaware battalion. Order on the Comm.y for 300 lb powd.r & lead as above In Cong.s Aug.t 10.th 1776. Res.d That the S.d Comm.e be directed to deliver to Col. J. Wilson 11 lb powd.r 45 lb lead for the use of 3 Comp.s of his Battalion now in town.—Res.d That the Sec.d Comm.e be directed to deliver to the order of the Marine Comm.e such quantity of Arms & Ammunition as may be necessary for the use of the Comm.e Frigates p. 97— Do. to deliver to Col. M.c allester 8 Stand of Arms for the use of his Battalion—The s.d Comm.e taking sufficient security for the return of s.d Arms. Aug.t 15 Order on the Comm.y for the Arms as above Aug.t 17. Do. to deliver Capt.n J. Baldwin 500 lb powder

for the use of the Schooner Wash. — Order on the Treasurer in favor of Rob.t Morris Esq.r for 2000 Dlls on Acc.t of a consignment Tobacco on Acc.t Mess.rs Ino.s Bradford & Co. Boston payable to his order & the Board. — In Congress Aug.t 16. 1776. Res.d that the Secret.y Com.tee be directed to deliver to the Delegates of N. Carolina for the use of the Troops in that Colony. — Aug.t 16.th Order on the Com.tee in favor of the Delegates of N. Carolina for the above 5 ton Lead. — 98. Aug.t 26, 1776. Order on the Com.tee in favor of James Craig & Wharton & Smith Philadelphia for 3 tons Lead for the use of the Frigates building there. Aug.t 29.th Order on the Com.tee to deliver Mr. Rob.t Purviance 2 tons Lead for the use of the Frigate in Maryland. — In Congress Aug.t 22. 1776 That the Sec.t Com.tee be directed to deliver to Majr. Nicholas a number of pounds sufficient to arm the marines raising under his command in this City. — Aug.t 23. Issued an order on the Com.tee for delivery of the above mentioned Lead to Majr. Nicholas for the purpose in Cong.s Aug.t 22.d 1776 Ord.d That the Sec.t Com.tee direct Capt.n Reynolds with powder & Proportionate quantity of Lead for use of the two Companies to be raised

on the town of Piscataway land — Order on Mr. Com[y] for £[illegible]
— £133 — Aug[t] 29[th] 1776 — Read. that the Sec[y]
com[e] be directed to deliver to the Maryland Troops
such Arms as are in his possession belonging to the
Conti[l] & not already appropriated; the State of
Maryland to be accountable for such arms
delivered to their troops — Order on the Com[y] for
the Muskets imported in the Brig Le Dore
Commodore Hall a reserve for Maj[r] Nicholas, for that
he wants & to return the proceeds by him to be given
to each. — Order to Tim[o] Matlack in favour
of Loesch for 4 Casks Salt Petre nett wg[t] 11308
to be manufactured into powder — Aug[t] 29[th] 1776. Read
that the C. be directed to provide
proper arms for the Germ[n] battalion in
case they cannot otherwise provide Arms
that they be empowered to apply to this purpose
the Arms ordered to be put into the hands of the
Mariners. — C. to deliver M[r] J[o] Mease the
two bales of Cloth on their proper on for the
public use; he to be accountable. — D[o] to import
the Med[e] ordered by the Med[e] Com[n]. — 2 h: 100
Aug[t] 27[th] 1776
Order on the Treasurer in favour of G. Loesch for 533 lb
in part payment for manufact[g] Powder. — Aug[t] 30[th] Order
on Gen[l] Greene, Gen[l] Wharton, Gen[l] N & M[r] Sullivan Com[rs] for Stores
favour

5.

be commanded to dispatch to Pittsburg
to be dispersed as the Comm^rs shall di-
rect — That application be made to
the Comm^rs of Pensylvania
for 10,000 flints to be delivered to G.
Morgan Esqr — In Cong: Sept. 16. 1776
Res^d That 15 tons pow^r & 20,000 flints
ten tons lead & 100 Reams cartridge
paper be immediately sent to Genl
Gates, for the use of the Army in the
Northern department — Septr 16, 1776
Order on the Comm^y to deliver the
Comm^g Genl Indian Affairs 2 ton pow^r
1 ton Lead, & 10,000 gun flints, agree-
able to an order of Congress to be dis-
patched to Pittsburg & dispersed as
the Comm^rs shall direct — Order
on Messrs Comm^y to deliver Robt Towns
two Eng^n Masters 15 lb powder, 5

20,000 gunflints, 10 ton lead, & 100 reams Cartridge Paper to be forwarded immediately to Genl Gates at Ticonderoga for the use of the Army in the Northn department. — Order on the Committee to deliver Capt Young 3 Batt 6 pound. 200 musket Cartridges, 6 muskets Hartwell's boxes, 12 Cutlasses, & 12 pikes for the use of Sloop Independence Sept. 10th. Order on Col. Matlack in favr of Powell for 2 ton Saltpetre to be manufactured into Gun powder. — Issued the following Drafts on the Treasurer To Thos York for 500 dlls. on acct of brig Molly's Cargo now lend. in public acct — To J. Wescat for 10,000 dlls to be by him invested in Bonds of the Province of Georgia & shipped agreable to Instructions given of this date. — p. 106 — Sept. 20. 1776

Committee Present, Morris, Hewes, Lewis Bartlett — Agreed to pay Mr Jonn Hudson the valuation of his Sloop Molly, taken by L. Dunmore & retaken on her passage to Bermuda, by the Andrew Doria Capt Biddle & sent for Rhode Isld valuation or sum insured on Chart. Party £3000. Also agreed to pay his Acct for Expences incurred by s. sloop being taken by the Otter & retaken by the Defence & Maryland amount £15 9 2 — £515 9 8. Equal to Dlls 1375 5 96 deduct what is already paid him — 2133 30 leaving due — 1162 5 6 for which Draft on Treasurer.

Mr B. Gibbs appear'd before the Comm.rs & represented that they
enjamen
Ship p.r for the Ship Elsworth Capt. Getchell is taken & carried
into Gibraltar, for the truth of w.h he refers to a letter
from Messrs Lewington & Trumbull of that place
to Mess.rs Wm. S. Morris & Co w.h they confirm to
be the case. — agreed to pay Mr Gibbs £3500
the valuat.n as p.r Charter party he giving a recpt
for the money bind.g him to refund it if the
Ship sh.d not be condemned as a prize, of w.h
however there is no hope — Therefore —
agreed an order on the Treasurer for 9333⅓ Dlls
in favor of Mr Gibbs — Mr Cowell has produced
his Acc.t for manufacturing 9.1315 7th his Acc.t for manufacturing 9.1315 7th to this time
amount.g to 1315 7th with the Comm.rs receipt for that
quantity w.h w.h he is content to allow £405.11,
deduct already p.d him £200 — balance £205.11,
equal to Dlls 546.12 for w.h sum we this day
agreed an order on the Treasurer in favr of
Mr Cowell he being in haste to this time.
Ord.d That Mr Morris be desired to buy up
quantities of Tob.o here, in Maryl.d Virg.a & N.
Carolina — & of Indigo Rice in S. Carol.a & Georgia
agreed that Mr Morris be desired to write
to the Comm.rs Agents in Connecticut & Rhode
Island to get Woolens made up w.h all speed
expedition & send them as fast as made to

Gen.l Washington — Sep.r 23.d Ord.s on the Com.y
to deliver the Commiss.d Officers of the 3d Penn.a
Battalion a proportional number of Arms for the
men now in the Battalion — Sep.r 26. 1776
Com.e met, Present Mr Sp.r Morris, Howes
Col. Lee, Livingston & Mr Hooper. — A Charter
Party for the Ship Betsey Wm Stevens Master
was signd by the Com.e — Ordered — That Mr Morris
do employ a proper person to go to N. England
to charter vessels to proceed from thence to the
Chesapeake Bay, there to load on the Ord.s now purchas.d
on Acc.t of the Continent — Ordered the Sollicitor
draw on the Treasurer — In favr of J. Meredith
& Co for 4484 dlls being amount of 400 brls flour
of 1000lbs flour purchas.d by them & shipped on
board the Ship Betsey Wm Stevens Mr for St. Lucia
or Martinico on Cont.l Acc.t Consigned to Wm Wm
Bingham Merch.t There — In favr J. Howes Esq.r
for 2000 dlls part pr ann.m of the pens.n allowed his Bro.r
Sam.l Capt.n Tolsey now under Charter party
to said Com.e — In favor of Robert Morris Esq.r
for 40,000 dlls advanced him to pay for produce
now purchas.d on Cont.l Acc.t — p. 109. Ordered
Col. Jam.s Matlack to deliver 9 dozen 4 lbs
Salt petre to be manufactured into Powder.
In Congress Sep.r 23.d 1776. Resolved That 3 Tons
of

(maybe four) 1776
of the 15 Tons powder lately ordered by the North Carolina Army now on its way thither be left at Newbern on the State of N. York, & from thence conveyed to Fort Montgomery on the Highlands
That 5 Tons be immediately sent from the City of Philadelphia to Fort Montgomery

Sept. 25th. Order on Comm.y for above 5 Tons powd. to be delivered to the order of the Board of War.

Do. 1st. Order on the Comm.y to deliver Capt. Nicholas Fullerton & Lieut. Thos. Boxer, Thos. Vandenburgh for the use of the Schooner Musketo in continental Service. In Cong. Sept. 17. 1776 Resd. That the Sec.y Comm.e be directed to deliver to the State of N. Jersey Thirteen Tons powder for the service of that State & it is to be accountable for the same. — Sept. 19. Order on the Comm.y for the above powd. agreeable to Resve of [redacted] — In Cong. Sept. 27. 1776 Resd. That the Sec.y Comm.e be directed to deliver to the B. of War, the Land Custody of all Arms, Ammunition & other warlike Stores, now under their care that may hereafter be imported or provided by them for Use of the U. S. of America.

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Oct.r 3.d 1776. Comm.e met—present, Mess.rs Morris
Lewis, R. H. Lee, & Mr. Livingston — Letters
were wrote to Mess.rs [illegible] persons for the purpose
of procuring Supplies of Arms, Ammunition
Cloth.g &c. other Necessaries for the Army
Jo.s Dan.l Schweighauser Merch.t Nantes
Sam.l & Jean? Hann de Lepos Merch.ts Bourdeaux
Andrew Limozen Merch.t — Duke de Grave
P. Steel & Sons Merch.ts Dunkirk
Estienne le Maleu Merch.t Marseilles
John Ross of Philad.a now in Europe
Thom.s Morris Do. Do.
Wm Bingham Esq.r Martinico
Agreed that Mr. Morris write to his
correspond.t at St. Eustatia to procure there
all the blankets he can for use of the Army
p: 111 — Comm.e met, present. Mess.rs Morris
R. H. Lee, [illegible], Livingston, Bartlett.
Order on the Comm.e to deliver to Mess.rs
Wharton & Nesbeggner 1000 lb Salt Petre for
the use of the [illegible]. — A letter was
written to J. Bradford Esq.r ordering him
to purchase a prize ship from Honduras
now at Boston (London & Mahogany Logwood)

or any others that may be brought in the
with the same cargo, on public Acc.t & risk
is to dispatch for Amsterdam consigned to
J. Ph. Marchle Esq.r Merch.t there, with di-
rections to sell the Cargoes & the proceed.
so, if a good price can be obtained, if not, he is
to bring them back with Salt for this Comtee
& credit this Comt.e for the net proceeds
of the Cargoes — Coms.n to Capt.n Cadwalader on Com.
Mr Peters to purchase of J. Lovell for 4 Cutters Sch.s
before to be manufactured into powd.r — Recd
from Peter Knight £12,166, in full for 62 Tons
powd.r supplyd him the 21.st March last prove
Cannon 4 p.r 112 — Dec.r 13. 1776. Comtee met
present — Mess.rs Morris, Col. Lee, Lewis
Wharton, Livingston, Bartlett. The Comtee
agreable to orders of Congress having taken into
consideration how to make the best Dis-
position of the Cargo lately arrived at
Providence R. I. in the Brig.e Happy
return, Capt.n Gid.n Crawford, think proper
to report, That in their opinion it will

ment for the benefit of the public service
To enclose a copy of the Invoice of the 2d
Blankets to Genl Heffler at Fort Mifflin
Brownes of R. Island, to deliver the whole
to his order, & that it be recommended to
the P. M. General to have the Locks
immediately provided for the Tolsers
either on R. I. Connecticut, or by the Tay-
lors in the Army, as may be thought
best by Genl Washington himself
That Majr Brown be desired to
deliver to the Commt. Agent at R. Island
the ammunition & Stores, the Cargo to enable
to supply the lead, Cartridges, Flints, Musket
Powder, to the use of the Conl. Frigates
Hancock, or Boston, and the rest as
may be wanted for that service, the
rest to remain for future orders.
That D. Agent be directed to buy as
much good & fat Beef & Pork, as can be
procured by the Sale in his possession for
the use of the Army & Navy — p. 113 —
That D. Agt be directed to forward the
Sulphur on the Cargo, & 5 tons Salt Petre
formerly

formerly sent by Congress, from Philadelphia
to Rhode Island, from thence to the ports
mills of Messrs. Livingston & Wooster, on the
N. River, State of N. York, to be immediately forwarded
into service for the State of N. York.

The Comm.rs have agreed with Mr. Gerke for
the hire of his Brig Betty, at 6,10, p.r ton, the
owners to victual for the voyage, valued
at £300 curr.y — Oct. 10. 1776 — Commissioners
met, present, Mr. Morris, Col. Lee,
Messrs. Lewis, Livingston & Bartlett
The foll.g letters were wrote & signed
by the Comm.rs — To Wm. Ph.a Morris (a), now
in France, appointed their general
Agent, for the execut.n of the business
of this Comm.n in Europe. — another
Letter to D.o respect.g the cargo of the Ship Sue
expo, Capt.n James Anderson, that now goes
consigned to him for sale, on Acc.t of the Com-
mittee — To Messrs. Nesbitt & Bond Bour
mentes — Congress have ordered the Marine
Comm.e to put the following vessels under the di

(a) and Partner with his Brother, the Chairman
of the Comm.e R. H. Lee

direction of this Comtee for this purpose.

p: 116— Brig Andrew Doria, Capt Jos: Robinson Lexington Capt Wm Hallock, Sloop Sachem Capt J.o Robinson.— Resd That the Forth.d Army or.d be made of them, for the purpose of procuring Supplies for the Army &c. Andrew Doria for St Eustatia. Lexington for Cape Francois Sachem for Martinico. With orders to the Agents at the different ports to purchase & ship by them all the woollen manufactury Arms & Ammunition, they can procure with the effects they have on hand or on the credit of these States & shall they procure more than the Army can be cloathed bring back, then to hire or buy other vessels suitable to bring over Articles Ordered

Ordered, That £50 be allowed & paid Mr. Jam.s Sterret for services done by his Son And.w Deceased as Clerk to this Comtee— Ord.d That Mess.rs Gruves an order on Tim.o Matlock to deliver G. Desch 5 Casks Salt petre to be manufactured into powder.— p 115— In Congress Dec.r 22.d 1776— The Sec.t Comtee

Resolved That the Cargo lately imported into Portsm. in the Brig Marquis of Rockingham Capt. Palmer consist of the follow. Articles — 5000 lb Powder 250 small Arms, 100,000 flints 4000 yds. small canvas 4 to 500 Jackets, 100 Knapsacks 100 Blankets, 80 Cases Rum 2 Bales of Linens, 10 tons lead — whereupon Resolv: That the powder, small Arms, 2000 flints part of the canvas 80 Rum & part of the Lead be applied by the Continental Agent for the use the contin. frigate Raleigh — That 60,000 flints be sent to Gen. Washington — That 38000 flints, 150 small arms, 100 knapsacks, 100 blankets & 8 tons lead be sent to the northern Army under Gen. Schuyler & Gates. — That the Remainder of the small Canvas be made into tents & sent to the northern Army — That the Jackets if fit for Soldiers be sent to the Northern Army if fit for Sailors to be distributed among the Cont. frigates at Portsmouth & Boston. That two Bales of woolens be made up into Soldiers Cloths for the use of the Northern Army — That the bale of Linens if fit for Soldiers Shirts or other purposes for the Army to be made up & sent to the northern

4 Powder 50 cwt lbs

as may be not perishable for public use to be sold to the best advantage — In Congress Oct. 21. 1776 p. 116 — Congress being informed that a vessel from London to Dublin with dry goods & among which are many blankets & coarse cloth, fit for Soldiers clothing was lately brought into the State of Rhode Island Resolved That Gen. Cook be requested to purchase immediately at Contin. expence, for the use of the Army under Gen. Washington as much, all the F. blankets & coarse cloths, that the F. Lunch be sent to Gen. Washington & the Cloths be made up agreeable to the direction of Brig. Mifflin Q. M. G. — Ordered That Return for clothing forwarded the above resolve to Gen. Cooke & acquaint Gen. Washington & Brig. Mifflin therewith. — Oct. 24. 1776 The Comte met present Messrs Morris, Lee, & Lewis — A letter wrote by the Chairman to J. Langdon Esq. dated 25 was read & approved of by the Comte

Ordered that the Treasurer pay Barnabas Deane for 1174 16 Dollars being

being in full for the balance of Silas & Bar-
nabas Deane's Acct as appears by an
Acct current rendered by them dated 25. June
last.—p: 107— In favor of S.r & S.r Deane for
1000 dlls being the Shar. insured by
Silas & B.s Deane, on the Schooner Rose
chartered & owned by them in conse-
quence of contract with this Comm.
S. vessel being taken by the Enemy, as
appears by a protest dated 12. instant.
In favor of Jamie Gibbs owner of the
Ship Nancy & Tabby for 4160. 2/3 dlls
being in full of the balance due to
her for the space 21 of S.d ship as per
charter-party on a voyage to Barcelona
Marseilles & from thence back to this port
a charter-party for the ship Success Capt.
Jam.s Anderson, was signed by the Comte
By sundry letters received it appears that

a Sloop called the Jarvis loaded w.th Tobacco
& Staves, by Messrs Hewes & Smith of N. Carolina
by order of this Comm.tee of the Country has been captured by the Enemy & Recaptured & carried into Salem in New England. — Ordered That Mr. Morris write to the Comm.tee Agent at Boston, to claim the Sloop for the Continent & to settle with the Recaptors for their salvage & afterwards, that he procure the Sloop with proper Necessaries & dispatch her with her Cargo for Nantes, in France provided She is fit for that voyage, & that Capt.n Willis the Master, will agree to the same & not She must proceed to Martinico, Hispaniola or to the Mole the place She was first chartered for. — A Letter was likewise ordered to be wrote to the Comm.tee of Salem to assist the Agent in the business. — p: 1102 — Dec.r 31.st 1776. Comm.tee met, Pres.t Messrs Morris Lee, Lewis & Livingston Letters were wrote to — Messrs Pearne, Penet & Co. Nantes — Mr. Th.s Morris p.r Ship, Mary Peter

Capt. Groves for Nantes whose Cargo goes
consigned to Mr. Morris on acct. of the Contents
To Capt. Peter Groves giving him Instruct.
to J. Bradford Esq. Cont. Agent Boston
To the Comte. of Salem N. England.

Robert Briggs produced an acct. for the
hire of his Brigt. Cornelia & Molly she
has performed her voyage agreable to
charter party. 3 3/4 at £180 cur. p. month
is £675. Order'd that Mr. Morris
pay the same, out of the nett proceeds
of that vessels cargo w.h he is likewise
order'd to receive — The Comte. have agd.
with Stewart & Jackson Owners of the
ship Cyrus to charter s.d vessel for a
voyage to Nantes & back to their place, on
the foll.g Terms — Three guineas per
Ton. freight for tob.o — 7/6 per bbl. flour — 1/ for
Seeds Salt beef & 2/ per bus. — The Comte. to
insure the vessel valued at £6000 cur.y
p: 119 — Order on the Treasurer in favor
J. Nixon & Co. for 9856 9/90 Dlls being amount

of a parcel of Sheep purchased from them
Prisoners in pursuance of the Act of this Colony
to be exported by them for Acct of the Contl
35 ℔ Ethrell a 10/ — Order on Treasr Matlock
in favr J. Glover for all the Contl Salt
petre under his care & to make return
of quantity &c in Aug. — Nov 13, 1776.
Comee met Present Messrs Morris, Lee
Lewis Livingston — Charter party for
ship Mary & Elizabeth was signed by the
Comee — Order on Mr Morris in favor
of Mr M'Kean for the service Mr Jo Sterrel
for 133⅓ Dlls being for 6 months service
of his Son Andrew Sterrel dec'd as Clerk to the
Comee — Letter to Messrs Lewis Clark
son & J. Dorsius of Charlestown S. Carolina
authorising them to charter & purchase
vessels & load them with the produce
of Salt &c on acct of the Contl
— p. 120 — Nov 15. 1776. Order on the
Treasurer in favr of G. Leach for 1000 Dlls
in part

in port papers for manufact. of gunp.

Nov. 15. 1776 Comm. met — present

Mess.rs Morris Lee Lewis Livingston.

Acct. of Rob.t Breze amount.g to £84, was

laid before the Comm.e for the passages

of seven men from Martinique in his Brig

Cornelia & Molly who were put on board by

Mr. Bingham Esq.r for this Comm.e as a politic

measure to screen the vessel from cap-

ture by the Enemy, as She was entered

by the Contin.t — Ordered — That the Sum

be p.d by Mr Morris — An Acct of Robt.

Morris Esq.r for 216 lb powd.r at 5/ per lb

amt. £54. delivered the Commit.e per

receit was laid before the Comm.e Ordered

that Mr Morris charge the same to Acct.

of the Comm.e Agreed that Mr Morris re-

ceive the large brought into this place

by Capt. Ord from the Mississippi & that he

deliver to Mr. Jos. Maese, any part thereof

that may be wanted for the use of the

Army; the remainder to be disposed of by

public sale & pay the freight of the whole

out of the nett proceeds & credit this Comte
w.th the balance. — Resd That Mr. Morris pay
to Capt. Ord fifty pounds as a reward from this
Comte for his faithful & good conduct
in transact.g their business. — Nov.r 22. 1776
The Comte met present Messrs Morris, Lee
Lewis, Whipple, who is appointed a member of
this Comte Order on the treasurer in favr of
J. Brown for the use of J. H. Norton, for 1666⅔ Dolls
to pay for tob.o purchas.d by him in Virg.a
for acct of the Contin.t (to be charg.d Mr. Morris)
Letter to Wm Lux Esq.r Comt. Agt at Baltimore
in Maryl.d inclos.g a bill of Load.g for 29
hhds 370 half hhds 140 qr.s bar. Powd.r on board
the sloop Capt. Hill, order.g him to receive
the same, & to deliver it to the order of the
board of war — Note This Powd.r was import.d
by Wm Alexander Esq.r on public Acct in con-
sequence of his Contract. — Nov.r 23.d Order on
the treasurer in favr of Alexand.r Dick for
8000 dlls in part payt for Powd.r he delivered
the Board of War. — p. 122 — Comte met, Pre-
sent Messrs Morris, Lee, Whipple, Lewis
Resd That the Comte Agents to the Eastn
be authorized to procure ten good ships

Dr. 1666⅔

on public Acct Six 32ds can be sent into Chesapeake Bay the rest to S. Carolina there to load with Rice, wch is purchased on Continental Acct — a Charter is to be given for the Brig Cornelia & Molly was signed by the Comtee — Ordered the following drafts on the Treasurer — In favor of Messrs. Abraham Livingston & Jno Turnbull for 20,000 Dlls, ordered them to purchase Cloathing for the Army in the Eastern States, where this Comtee has sent them for this purpose — In favor of John R. Livingston Esq. for 1250 Dlls, for them in part of his Acct for manufacturing powder at their Mills in the State of N. York.

As Congress being informed of the near approach of the Enemy to this City, removed to Baltimore where the Committee have attended to Publick business.

R. M. 1666 2/3

(Here the Minutes began on the Secretaryship of Mr. Robert Morris) In examining the papers delivered me, by the Committee on their return from Baltimore, I found they did not keep any book of Warrants therefore the following are extracted from the said Papers — R. Morris.

Baltimore Jan.y 14. 1777 The Committee consisting of Richard Henry Lee, Wm Whipple & Thos Lewis Esq.rs directed the following Warrants on the Treasurer of the Continental Treasury — Jan.y 14.th In favor of Alexd. Gillon Esq.r on Acct for 9333 1/3 Dlls to be charged to his Acct — 17.th In favor of Messrs Lux & Bromley for 6666 2/3 Dlls, sent from Philada by Mr. Morris & to be charged to his Acct — 18.th In favor of Wallace & Davidson for 19382 1/6 Dlls. This Bill sent by Mr. Morris is to be charged to his Acct. In favor of Edward Stewart (a) 40000 Dlls This bill sent by Mr. Morris & to be charged to his Acct. 21.st In favor of John Nixon & Co for 16069 4/9 Dlls This bill sent by Mr. Morris to be charged to J. Nixon & Co. for Ship Hopes cargo. Feb.y 1.st In favor of Daniel Roberdeau for 28,000 Dlls

(a) This Steward for purchases on public Acct has remitted to him by the Comm.e 37333 3/9 — See p. 137.

to be charged to their acct — 6th In favor of Thos Stewart for 4000 dlls to be charged to Mr Morris — 8th In favor of Messrs J. & Adam Hunter for 2000 dlls, this bill sent by Mr Morris to be charged to him — 10th in favor of Step.n Steward for 6000 dlls to be charged to Mr Morris 22d In favor of Hewes & Smith for 6000 dlls sent them by Mr Mucklraw & to be charged to Mr Morris 27th In favor of Step.n & J. & R. Purviance for 12000 dlls to be charged them.

Baltimore Feb.y 27 1777 The Com.rs gave an order on the Treasurer in favor of Mr Gelt Esq.r for 10,000 dlls to be charged to his acct. (here Mr Morris's writing ends)

Decr 1st The residence of the Com.rs at Baltimore. They wrote several Letters to the Legislature of Maryland upon the Contents of the Letters by copies of s.d Letters.

The Com.rs ordered Step.n & J. & R. Purviance, of Baltimore to purchase for the public Acct two large vessels as they can, a quantity of pig iron &c each of which are to be fitted for Ships of War — They ordered Mr Stephen

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Steward to purchase for the publick use a quantity of tobacco — The Order to Tho.s Jett Esq.r to buy 1000 hhd.s tob.o for publick use as appears by letter to him. — p. 125 — Philadelphia — During the residence of the Commit.e at Baltimore the Chairman M.r Morris transacted the following business at this place

1776 Dec.r 4th Paid Capt.n Nat.l Shaw on account the balance of an Acct. of his expences to the Eastward when he was sent by the Secret Committee &c. — 111.10.

20th D.o Ditto the balance of his Acct for manufactur.d Gunpowd.r — 127.7.6

1777. Feb.y 15. D.o Capt.n Jeremiah Morgan to be charg.d to his Acct — 80.—.—

— 15. D.o Capt.n Sam.l Smith jun.r of the Ship Hancock & Adams towards the fitting out of s.d vessel to be charg.d her owners. 5.r Thos. Cushing £1125 — — —

16th D.o J. & R. Livingston & Co.r Merchants for manufacturing 258 lb 3 qrs powder — 258.11.3

24. D.o Thos. Hutton for portage of Gunpowd.r &c — 13.12.—

D.o D.o W.m Blagrave for the following Stores purchas.d from him & Cooke Jones & W. 7104lb at 4/ £2406.0.0. 10 Kegs flints 24.00 40/ 40.16.0. 2 Bales match rope 135lb — 15.8.8.9 3 reams Cart.e paper 24lb 3.12 — 2541.4.9

Tub.[s] Paid Capt. Dan.[l] Bigelow of the Sloop Manager for demurr.[g] on s.[d] sloop while detained in this port, to be shared by Mess.[rs] Giles & Barnab.[s] Deane ..... £4329,6,4.
..... 31.---
D.[o] 12.[s] J. Lesch in part for manufact.[g] Lee[n] fee under. 250---
J. Russel the amount of his Rec.[t] for storage of Salt petre 11---
£ 4644,6,4.

The Cash for pay.[t] The above Rec.[t] was suspended, by the Marine Com.[te] The Navy Board have been directed to charge the Am.[t] to this Com.[e] on their books Ct. 126

An order was drawn on Capt.[n] Bigelow of the Sloop Manager, to deliver Com.[y] Carpenter Wharton for the use of the Army, all the Salt remaining on s.[d] sloop from Curraco to be plac'd to the credit of Mess.[rs] J. & B. Deane

Tub.[s] 13.[s] Rec.[d] from the Com.[e] of Congress an order on Wm. Smith Esq.[r] Officer of the State for 10,000 lb. in certificates, w.[ch] was received sent to J. Bradford Esq.[r] at Boston by Patrick

M.r Clesbey on Expr.s — to the Com.tee on the
purchase of Cloths for the Army. Delivers the
to orders now transmitted him — March 31.st
Rec.d from Mess.rs Hillegas & Co. Treas.rs at Bal-
timore 120,000 Dlls. which was brought & depos-
ited in the hands of Mess.rs Mease & Caldwell &
taken afterwards from them & this day sent
off to Boston by Freeman Palsifer an express
to be delivered Mess.rs Livingston & Turnbull
there &c for purchasing Cloths &c in the Eastern States
March 25.th Order on Jno. Bayard Esq.r to deliver
to the order of the Board of war 6,000 Stand of Arms
1500 gunlocks imported on his Bill of Lading
from Nantes on Acc.t of the Commercial Co.y of
Bayard & Co. &c. This Com.tee — April 5.th Draft
on the Accomptant gen.l in favor of Lt. G. Went-
worth for 20,000 Dlls to be by him delivered to J.
Langdon Esq.r of Portsmouth N. Hampshire
for continental service under direction of this Comm.tee.
April 6.th 1777. Committee met, present Mess.rs
Morris, Lee & Whipple. Order on J. Gibson Esq.r
Accomptt gen.l in favor of J. Meade & Co. for 19958/36
purchased from them the 17.th March last & sent
to Albany by direction of the Board of war. The
following

following orders was drawn on Mr. Hillegas Treasurer, at Baltimore, in favor of Col. McIlvaine of Virg.a for 30,000 Dlls, to furnish tobac.o on public Acc.t — Carter Braxton Esq.r for 40000 Dlls for like purpose. Order on the Auditor gen.l in favor of J. Brown for 22,292,50 being to pay bills drawn on this Comm.e by Jennings Clarkson & J. Bursins Esq.r Agents in Ch.s town S. Carolina to that amount. — p. 128 — April 12. 1777. Present Morris Col. Lee Col. Whipple — Capt.n Jer.h Morgan of the sloop Mary, laid before the Comm.e his Acc.t Curr.t charging the value £ insured on the s.d sloop as by charter party made with Silas Deane Esq.r on behalf of the States, at Burmuda, together with disbursements &.c in France wages &.c also a protest of the seizure of s.d sloop by the Enemy, as appears fully by s.d Acc.t curr.t & Protest. — An order was drawn on Mr. Morris for 160 Dlls in part payment of the ballance due to him for the remainder

ballance should be p.d in Bermuda per agreem.t yet as the Comm.e have no funds on that place, it is agreed to give Bills of Exch.e on Frame for the same — accordingly a Bill was drawn on Messrs. J.C. & J. W. Delap Merch.ts at Bordeaux in favor of s.d Morgan, for £6.5.11 Sterl.g at 60 days sight Exch.e 150 p.r Cent being the full amount of the balance due him on Acct. April 15.th 1777. Comm.e present Morris Col. Lee Col. Whipple Mr. Morris reports That this day he sent down per Robt. Purdy to Lewis town to collect Stake care of the goods that were saved out of the Ship Success Capt. Anderson lately blown up at the Capes — with orders to employ waggons to bring them up to Dover & that he has advanced him 1000 Dollars pay charges wrote letters to Henry Fisher & Caesar Rodney Esq.rs & spirit per Rodney in doing the business — Ps: 129 — April 16. 1777. Comm.e met, present Morris, Lee, Whipple Lewis. Order on Mr. Hollingsworth Esq.r the Treasurer, at Baltimore, in favr. of Mr.

Archibald Buchanan for 14,666 2/3 dlls, being
the valuation of the ship Hammer Capt. Bashull
chartered Vessel by this Comm. on publick
Acc. &c. Ship taken, before Paul Hooks
Not. pub. the 7th Inst. Note — This Ship was
loaden with tobo. & bound to Nantes.
April 17. 1777. Comm. met, present — Mess. Morris
B. H. Lee, Lewis, Livingston — The Comm. agreed &
with Morris to make a joint concern of the
ship Lions cargo now Load. in this port
for France — She has now on board about
260 hhds of tobo. this to be filld up with as much
more, of that Article as She will take & stow.
The ship belongs to Mr. Morris the values
her at £4000 curt. the half of which Comm.
agree to insure on s. ship until his return to
this port, & to allow 4 quint. per hhd freight for tobo.
& ten shillings ster. p. ton for flour & 2/6 ster.
p. foot for any goods the She may bring back
p. 130 — April 18th 1777. Comm. met, present
Morris, Lee, Lewis, Whipple, order on
J. Gibson Esq. D. C. G. in favor Mess. Meredith

& Cyprien for 2133 1/3 Dlls being the amount of their valuation of their Sloop Peggy chartered & imployed by the Comte. S. sloop being taken on her way to Martinique by the Enemy's ship Orpheus on the 4th. July last, as appears by the Masters Protest taken before Jr. Humphreys Notry. pubc. on the 30th. day of Augt. last. Ordered the foll. drafts on the Treasr. genl. in favor of Mead & Co. for 56.26 Dlls being the amount of an Invoice of Staves shipd by them on board the Brig. Friendship for St. Eustatia for 3600 Dlls, agt. their Recpt. dated the 18th March last. Do. for 1253 1/3 Dlls balance of their Acct. for freight & charges on the Brig. Friendship — pr. 131 — April 23d. 1777 Congress met present Messrs. Morris, Lee, Whipple, Lewis Order on the Treasr. genl. in favr. Boswell Lee, for 652, 24 Dlls being the amount of his Acct. for manufactur.g Powder to the 10th April last Order in favor of D. & J. Penrose for 5600 Dlls being the amount of the valuat.n of their ship Sally, taken by the Enemy's ship being

chartered

chartered & ensured by the Comm.e — In favr of
Hodges & Bayard & Co. for 10,000 Dlls, in part
payt. of their Acct. agst. the Comm.e — In
favor of Wm. Grant owner of the Brig.
friendship for 2835/90 dlls, being bal.ce of his
acct. for damages on s.d voyage. D.o to D.o
for 1750 dlls being the valuat.n of his Brig.
Seaflower chartered & ensured by the Comm.e S.
Brig.e being taken by the Enemy at New-
york, as appears by an Affidavit of said
Grants taken before Jam.s Gunn Esq.r 16 inst
Agreed that Mr. Morris direct the
several Agents for purchas.g &c. that
they must not exceed 25/ pr Cent for their Acts.
-p: 133 — April 24. 1777. The Comm.e
met present, Morris, Lee, Whipple
Lewis — Letters from Danl. Tillinghast
Esq.r of the 15. & 18 March enclosing Invoi
ces, of goods purchased for the use of the Ar-
my, & clothing supplied the fleet was read.

130.

Letter of Att.y for Mr. Lee of he refuses to take he will refer her to him for settlem.t of the whole in this Case. — p. 133 — Com.d met pursuant. Morris, Lee, Shippen. The Com.rs have purchased from Mr. B. Gibbs of this city merch.t his Store called the Union Granite Wharf, as the now lays at Lapsley's Corner, with the extend of this Fronte for the sum of £1000 curr.t he to keep the Quarterly bill, & all charges to the time She delivered her cargo there. The Com.rs have likewise agreed with Reynolds & Co. w.m Gibbs for a bill on Mr. Stephen Cornish of this for the bal.ce of the said proceeds of Brig.s cargo for wch he is to be p.d 100 p.r Cad. more. The Com.rs have likewise agreed with Sam.l Pearose for the Ship Lily for the purchase of their Sloop called the Phebe, as She now lies at Lapsley's Corner for £1000 this curr.y they to pay all charges until the time She delivered her cargo there. Also

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for a Bill on Rob.t Penrose Esq.r at 60 days sight to draw on Com.r Alexander Creditors for balance of Accounts exceeding £ 5000 also for Warrants for Cash in the Treasury not to pay more than £ 1500 — Mr Morris produced the following Bills drawn upon him as Superintendant of the Treasury by J. Wescott Esq.r Cont.l Agent for Intelligence (a) viz.t

In favor of Burney & Dawson dated 14 Dec.r last for this service £ 16.16.10,0

In favor of Levi Shiffall 31.st Jan.y — 75.— —

Do 1 Feb.y — 75 —

Do 3 — 75 —

Do 4 — 75 —

Pennsylv.a Curr.y £ 19.16.10,

Ordered that Com.r Morris pay said Bills

Order on the Register-gen.l in favor of J. Brown on behalf of Mr Morris for 532 dollars to pay said bills to be charged to J. Wescat Esq.r in the Treasury books — May 1.st 1779 Ordered two drafts on the Cont.l Treasurer, Alex.r Hodgdon Esq.r at Baltimore for 37,500 dlls. in favor of Mr J. Hemmers he having given that sum here to Mr Morris to be applied to public use. (b) — May 2.d 1779. Comm.r met

(a) In this manner Mr Morris, may have paid for all his private purchases out of the public Treasury, as Accounts will not appear till the Agents settle their Accounts This Wescott, like many others never settles & so the public money is accounted for. A. Lee

(b) This was a mode of prevent.g R. Morris from being charged on the public books of the treasury, as he was suspected to be peculating the public Money. A. Lee — The payments made appear seperate from the Warrants drawn by the Marine Com.r

met present Morris, Whipple, &c

The Comt. have agreed to allow Mr Penrose, one
of the Assistants Sixty pounds per diem de-
murrage for the time the Ship was detained
in France, agreeable to an Act they have taken
on that head, and in addition thereto, for the
Exchange for that
Balance of Prize Acct. Then for a report
Mr. B. Gibbes laid before the Comt. an Es-
timate of what he supposes, ~~£~~ £135— will
be the amount of the sales of the Brig. Hawks
cargo, taking for a head of them by the Comt.
supposed 300 casks Rice at 5½ Cut. each
is 1750 lbs a 25 lbs. Casks is 6450 lbs—
£210 172 deduct for Charges &c
20 172

£1900, advance accepted per Agreement
1900,

3000 reputed value he supposes all Charges till Cargo delivered
1050
5600— Agreed that £5000 be advanced
on part of Account of the above Estimate, and
an order drawn on Mr. Morris in
favor of B. Gibbes for that Sum— Order
for one Month Interest Commission £125.

Ord. J. Gibson Esq. favor Danl. Penrose Ags.
for 4500 Dlls being the price of the Sloop Phebe
purchas'd from them, & part payment for their
bill on Step.n Cesar for balance of Sales pro-
ceeds of s.d vessel & cargo in his hands. — May 8th
1777 — Committee present Morris, Lee, Whipple
Livingston — Issued the fol.g drafts on the
Receiver general in favor Ard. Mercer &
Philip Moore for 5333 1/3 Dlls being the valua-
tion of their ship Polly chartered & imployed by
the Comm.rs. Ship being carried in by the
Seamen to Hallifax, as appears by the Capts
protest, taken before J. Nutting Not.y Publ. on the
25th Febr.y last — p. 136 — Do. in favor of P. Law
Mecklenechen for 13,333 1/3 Dlls being the va-
luat.n of his ship Adventure taken in the
bay & destroyd by the Enemy, as appears by
the Capts protest, s.d ship being chartered & im-
ployed by the Comm.rs — May 13th 1777. Com.
mee present Morris Lee, Livingston
Whipple. Letter read from Nich.s G. Brown
of Providence dated 28th April last, advis.g
the arrival of 9 bales containing 980 blankets
at Bedford from Nantes in France — Ordered

That they be directed to deliver the same to the Lieutenant gen.l or his order — Remitted to J Langdon Esq.r The Comm.rs Agent at Portsmouth N. Hampshire a bill drawn by Stennett & Bell on Andw Black Boston for 17,500 dlls to be applied to the credit of this Comm.n. Note The Comm.n is to credit M.r Morris with this bill as he p.d for it — Order on M.r Morris in favor of Capt.n Wm Stevens of the Ship Betsey for 50 dlls as a reward for his faithful & successful services while employed by the Comm.n — p: 137 — May 19.th 1777. Committee met present — Morris, Lee, Whipple Order on the Treasurer gen.l in favor of Jas Wallace, for 3200 dlls being the value of his Brig.t Polly Capt.n Lacy taken by the Enemy's frigate Cerberus, on the 4.th July last, as appears by the Capt.ns protest, & Brig.t being chartered & insured by the Comm.n — May 21.st 1777 Comm.rs met — present — Morris, Lee, Whipple

Order on the Receiv.r gen.l for [illegible]
Bayard & Co.s for 36,000 Dls the balance due
them on their Acc.t of Bonds exported in conseq.ce
of a Contract with this Court — May 28.th 1781
Court met — present Morris, the Deputy Superintendant
Superintendant — R. Burges Esqr. Brought to
Bar the Owners of the Ship Lisle by [illegible]
their Att.y for her Restitution & Ship She being
taken by the enemy as appears by protest — p.r 138 —
Dollars been Recd p.r Sundry Orders, 10,000. The Com.rs
in consideration, The Court agreed to keep 12,000 Dls
in part, until they can be furnished with
other Accts of the Monies advanced by their
Agents, to the Capt.n above Mentioned, Orders
was drawn for that Sum on the Receiv.r gen.l
of the U.S. Virginia. In consequence of a Letter
from Major Genl Greene & Smith & Clinton, dated Wm
Lost to Rob.t Morris Esqr. the Court have agreed to
procure the release of the Brig Polly & the persons
in her, Letter & have furnished Lord Cornwallis
in Virg.a for Stores, & the Owners the said Lord
for the voyage & to be a Credit of the above Sum
allowed a Recov.y for Seamens Wages & Expences
that may have accrued — Bill of Exchange drawn
by Messrs Clarkson & Benjamin of this Town, Merchants
date

dated 29th March last favr Jas Nelson or order
on the Mayor &c Aldermen &c of this Corp. for
£ 5712,12,0 Virt Clearg was presented — & an order
drawn by the Presid. of Congress on the Treasurer of this State
in favour of Jabez Perkins for 15,933.54 Dlls to be p.d in
Indn Specie to bear Int. & pd Bill — p. 139 — Comt.
not, waited Messrs Livingston, Whipple —
Moved the follow.g Resolu on the Impost
Acct. in favor of Wm Stephen Steward for
37,933 1/3 Dlls to pay for Produce he is now
purchas.g on public Acct. — Do on the Quarr
Gen.l for 2666 2/3 favor Wm Jarrard, Book
& Pc being Int. pay.t of the demands of the Cru
of the Ship Mary Capt. Jno Kennedy
employed by the Comte — The follow.g Resolu
Inst. of the Hospl Department — Large
Supplies of Medicines were brought on Wag.s
from Albemarle & delivered to Surgn
Flower Com.g Gen.l of Mil.a Stores as p Rect
dated 31st May 272 Hhds & Short Bayonets to
match 500 Muskets 101 do with do — 500 Bayonets
& Scabbards 500 — A.C. — June 5 1777 Comte met

present — Robt Morris Whipple Livingston

Orders on the Auditr Genl in favr Josh. Wallace, for 1162 £ 5 dlls being for freight due on his Brigt Polly Capt Lacey from 15 March 1776 to 4th July following when Brig was taken by the Enemy, is 3 mo 19 ds at 120 £ p. is £436,0,0, Charter party was sign'd by the Comr for the Brigt Betsey J. Young Owner.

June 10th 1777. Comr met pursuant, Morris, Whipple Livingston & Lansdale & verbal Instructions were from Congress the 9th inst Resolv'd That this Comr will import from N. Orleans on the Mississippi to the value of 40 or 50,000 dlls in Blankets, Shrouds, & other Articles suitable for publick use, That proper lists of s.d goods be sent forward to Mr Oliver Pollock Merchant there with orders that he purchase or charter three or four small suitable vessels & ship on each to the value of 10, or 12000 dlls of s.d goods & dispatch them for the first safe ports in these States also that he be authorized, should he charter the vessels to have them justly valued & insured the valuation at any capture by the Enemy — agreed w.th Robt Morris Esqr for his Draughts on Oliver Pollock Esqr

for Thirty Thousd. dlls to be p.d at N. Orleans for wh
Mr. Morris is to be paid in Dollars. — p: 145 — June 13-1787
Comt met present Morris Livingston Mippin
Letters were receivd from Mr. Trautvetel Commr
of the french Ship Amphitrite at Portsmouth, from
J. Langdon Esq. Contl Agt. & from Capt. J. P. Paul
Jones — Mons. Trautvetel hath declined the propo-
sition made him by the Comte. of taking
Capt. Jones on board his Ship as Commander
but is willing to proceed to Charles town
on certain assurances be given him as
p. his s.d Letter. — Resolv.d That the s.d
Letters be laid before Congress & that it is
the opinion of this Comte. that Capt. Trautvetel
should have the assurances given as he re-
quires & be ordered round to Charles town for a
Load.d Ship Rice — On consideration of the terms
of agreemt. made with the Owners of the
Ship Mary & Elizabeth lying in the In-
dies & unexpired, the Comte. find that by
Charter Party, she is to be delivered to be de-
livered at this port, & is at the public disque
until that time, & as it is now improper

85. ships of war — L. ship being then chartered
Rangers by the Comm[tee]

— p: 143 — Sept[r] 3. 1777 — It was agreed
by Robert Morris & R. H. Lee Esq[rs]
to allow Capt[n] Peter Young late of the ship
Mars & Elizabeth as a reward for his
Serv[s] faithfully & successfully performed
a voyage to France & back ★ this Com[t]
ment with[s] Ship on public Acct.

Sept[r] 10[th] 1777 Order drawn
by Pres[t] of Congress upon Jos[h] Clarke
L. Officer for the State of Rhode Island
for 2300 Dlls, in favor of this Comt.
who endorsed by the Chairman Com-
mitted to Mess[rs] Nic[s] & Jn[o] Brown &
Providence in part of a ballance due
to them.

At the end of this Journal is
the following entry in the hand-writing
of Rob[t] Morris — Philad[a] In Congress

Sept. 4th 1778. Resolv'd That the Members
of the Secret Committee now present be
a Committee to close the Accounts of that
Committee and deliver them to the Com
mittee of Commerce, and that s. Committee
be authorised to employ proper persons
for adjusting & closing the Accounts
of the Secret Committee — Extract
from the Minutes C. Thomson —

Sept. 5. 1778. After various applications
to the Members of the Committee to meet
w.h they were prevented from doing by the
multiplicity of business on their hands on other
Committees this day Met

Francis Lewis — absent R. H. Lee
Robert Morris — Dr. M'Kean
Bartlet

who being very desirous to promote the
settlement of these Accts agree immediately
to hire, a capable Clerk to enter on the business
if such a one can be found, & Mr. Morris is
desired to agree with him on the best terms
in his power.

Robt Morris & J. Ross Papers
& their Contract &c &c

Invoice 23d April 1776 not signd
Bill of Loading 26th April 1776 signd Jno Mehe
Brig. Polly sent by Willing Morris & Co
consigned to Duff & Welch on Acct &
risk Advice. agrees with Invoice
Invoice 10 March 1776 signd Hewes & Smith & Vaso
Robert Morris for self & J. Ross
Bill of Loading 10th March 1776 signed John
Rowson Ship Commerce consigned to
J. Ross or J. D. Schweighauser
Invoice 18th Augt 1776 signd Hewes &
Smith & Vaso Robert Morris for self & J. Ross 1975, 3.10
Bill of Loading 18 Augt 1776 signd Jno Nes
com Brig. Betsey said to be shipped
by order of the Secret Com. consigned
to Jno Dupuy Cape St. Nicola Mole
Agrees with the Invoice
Invoice 10 Augt 1776 signd Hewes & Smith
& Vaso Robt Morris for self & J. Ross 522, 17.9
Bill of Loading 10th Augt 1776 signd Wm Scott
Ship Jamestown, shipd by order of the
Secret Com. consigned to J. Dupuy.
Invoice 30th June 1776 Hewes & Smith
& Vaso Robt Morris for self & Jno Ross 1526. 9.11

[illegible] said to be shipped by order & Direction of the Secret Comm.ee of the
Comm.ee Alex.r Gillies Master consigned to
self

R.t Lebt VIII. signed R. Morris for Self & J.o Ross £8282,11,8.

Loading 15.th Dec.r VII6 per Geo. Gaddis
Clearance on Acc.t Drogues as p.r
Invoice to Jn.o Ross shipped by W. Mott
as with the Invoice

Invoice 21. April VII7. signed Hewes & Smith
& also Robert Morris for Self & J.o Ross £3210,8.0
Bill of Lending 21.st April VII7 signed Hon.
Standing, Ship Patty, on Acc.t Drogue
of the U. S. of America, consigned to J.o Ross
agrees with the Invoice.
Invoice 13 April VII6 signed R. Morris
for Self & Jo. Ross ---------- 1556,11.10
Bill of Lending 15.th April VII6 signed
Benj.n Weeks Brig.t Jamaica packet
Ship.d by Willing & Morris on Acc.t Drogue &c
as per advice, consigned to J. Ross. Agrees w.th
Invoice 25.th March VII6 signed Rob.t Morris 3908,0,6.
for Self & Jo.s Ross.
Ship Letter 1512,4,11
2082,6,6

Bill of lading 28th March 1778 Governor
ship Hope. shipped by Willing Morris & Co
does not mention at whose request, consign
to Don Manuel del Leno rubio of Corunna
Agrees with the Invoice.

Copy of a letter said to be from Jn
Gardoqui, relative to the ship Hope dated Madrid
[illegible] 1777 — That Mr. Rubio had ordered Will-
ing, Morris & Co. to send no flour to them, that
they wrote you so as soon as the Hope arrived
that her Cargo would not suit them. Di-
rected to Jo. Rop.

Copy of a letter dated Paris 11th Oct.
1777 s-d to be from Jo. Rop to Robert Morris
"I got to Paris a few days since, the
dispatches are to be sent off this Evening
by the Commissioners, the chief intent of this
serves to inform you, that by their assistance
in part, I have been enabled to compleat
the two orders transmitted to me by the

Commissioners of Congress of the Union
they have been pleased to furnish me bills
on their Banker to the amount of £50,000
sterling to assist me in making good my
engagement so far & forward the execu-
tion of the business, promising to re-
fund this money to them, as soon as funds
received me on acct of the public which you
may depend shall be faithfully performed, when
I am in cash from such funds as may come to
my hands to pay off my engagements in Europe
in consequence of your orders. I informed you al-
ready in sundry letters the value is much
more considerable than I expected, as you'll
soon know by the Invoices that I expect to
forward in a very short time & you may re-
sonably conclude I shall be impatient to
receive for their supplies from you to
repay this money & encounter my own advan-
ces otherwise — The Commissioners appointing
me to serve the public & the supplies provided
on

on much better terms than such will be had from this kingdom, it may be proper to mention it to Congress, & if it should meet their approbation & that in future they should think deserving of their favours & confidence, I doubt not they may recommend it to the Commissioners to open one in like manner when in their power in case any pressing demand make it necessary to solicit their aid. You may open Congress, their money shall only be applied for the purchase of the orders, I am entrusted with, by the Comm.ee & that with fidelity & care.

Copy of our original letter from Robert Morris to the Comm.ee Committee Menheim Jan.y 24.th 1778 — upon how herewith the copy of a letter I received a few days ago from Jo.s Ross dated Passy 7.th Feb.y last by w.ch you'll observe the Commissioners at the Court of France have made some considerable

advance of money to enable the fulfilling these orders for goods which had been given by the Secret Comtee. What he has promised them re payment out of the first public monies he receives — it therefore becomes absolutely necessary to make him remittances for this purpose, least a detention of that money from the Commissioners might injure our public affairs under their management. Mr. John Ross had two Contracts to execute in Europe agreable to stipulations entered into before he left this Country, I have delivered Goods of his shipping, to the amount of Thirty Thousand pounds curr.t to the Clothier General, who report one that these goods were unquestionably the best in quality & laid on on cheaper terms very considerably than any he had seen imported. What I know to be a fact Mr. Ross has been at Hamburg, in Poland, Germany Holland & France to execute these Contracts, & the orders of the Secret Comtee to the best advantage

I believe he acquitted himself as well as it was possible for any man to do, — he understands Ordnance well — he is honest, industrious — exact & punctual — The Commissioners are well convinced of all this, or ~~he~~ they would not have advanced him their money, indeed they expressly say in some of their letters that if all our commercial agents had been such men as Mr Pitt there would not have been any complaint in that department.

The first Contract was for powder, Ammo & field-pieces with an alternative to deliver Linens &c if these Articles could not be obtained, but is on account of this Contract (being the same that I first made with Congress) that I have delivered gun powder to the amount of above £30,000 — The 2d Contract was for the importation of

the sundry articles as p. list hereon N.º 2 on
acct of wch 9,000 dlls was advanced & has been
remitted to Mr Rufs, with good success, having
all arrived safe except about 100 hhds tobacco
from Staunton. The B.d order sent him by the
Committee was for the goods in list N.º 3. fo
which no remittances have been made, & he
was referred to the Commercial Agent in
France to supply him with funds to pay
for them, now he has compleated all those
orders & contracts, & had upon his own
credit & application obtained those goods
at the best markets, he had bro.t them
to Nantes in above 500 bales & in order
to get them safe here he has bought a
ship of 96 feet keel & 20 Six pounders to be
commanded

commanded by Capt. J.o Green, an old Pa
route Shipper of mine, that he met in Mar
France — The Ship he bought on private
account, having no orders to make such a
purchase for the public, & his business in
Paris on b.e was to obtain the Advances
from the Commissioners necessary to make
good his Contract with the Manufacturers
of the Goods, & consult them as to the qua
lity of Goods to be shipped on board that
Ship; & the route she should pursue when
loaden — he seemed to be of opinion she
should touch at Martinique, to land part
of the Cargo there, that it might be brought
from thence in small fast sailing vessels
& the Ship come on the coast during the

winter with the rest, however in all this he determined to proceed with the greatest by the Commissioners at Paris. Tho he does not inform me he would in this letter of the 9th Oct. which is the last I have from him I am not certain in what way that Ship was to proceed, but I think we may hope to hear soon of her arrival there & probable that Capt Green will have left the Bay of Philadelphia before he left France. What the Enemy's ships were in the Chesapeake bay, I think he will certainly avoid that & Delaware, seeing that the North there is less danger & I will hope for his safe arrival before long. She is a remarkable fast sailing ship — Those goods

will be immensely useful if they are but
got safe over, & I think the Committee should
give orders with Mr Bingham immediately
for sending forward by every opportunity
what may be needed at Martinique. It
remains however to furnish Mr Ross
with the means of defraying the com-
pliments the money they have advanced
as well as for his own Expences, and
no one means of doing this I beg leave
to propose that some of the Cargoes
of Tobacco now on board the ships now
in Virginia & Maryland, that were by
the first bills of loading consigned to
my Brother, should now be altered
new bills of loading taken & to consigned to
Mr John Ross, or his order. These Cargoes

being originally designed to furnish Mr. Ross &
the Commissioners with funds, will still be ap
plied to that purpose. I hope some of them,
will now get to sea. as their Cargoes are
entered, the Boatswain, the Steward, Commeller, &
will if you approve of it, give direction
for these necessary alterations, & then
transmit you an account thereof &
you may write to Mr. Ross what you
judge proper on the occasion. Should
the Cargoes produce more money than
will repay the Commissioners & Mr. Ross's
own Advances you can either direct
him to pay the balance to the Comrs &
or direct him to ship it on such
Apportments of Goods as you please - You'll
observe this Gentleman continues the
offer

offer of his Services to Congress, on that Subject, I shall rather be silent, for after the disappointment I have met with in my Brother I shall never wish to introduce any body to public employ — But most sincerely do I wish, that a recommendation here in the first instance to be employed as commercial Agent united w.th my Brothers, or rather jointly with them w.d I wished to do at the time was prevented by the indiscriminate prejudice that prevails against Scotsmen — They are the same generally against us, but those that are true are most valuable & useful, such he is, If you think proper to employ him such you will find him to be. I beg your immediate answer about consigning him these tobacco ships & am Gentlemen &c signed — Robert Oliphant

The Hon.ble — Commercial Committee at York.

N.B. Lest no Doubts are to be entertained by the Boards of the Secret Committee, from the Answers they may be pleased to give to the Queries proposed by the Secret Committee, and entered in their Minutes of the 10th Instant, the Party most concerned to inquire thereinto, should be pleased to give them.

Copy of a Letter from Messrs Boyd & Benfield to the Secret Committee, dated 4th Sept. 1780.

To paid Schemes drawn pr particular Account herewith from Do ... 5109,6,6
P. Freight of 123 bales Goods from Messrs Hunter & Edmund 1632,0,0
P. Gourlade & Moylan Freight of 43 tons Merchandize for the St Lucia pr order 200 £ p Ton ... 860,0,0
Commn. at 2½ pCt ... 306,16,6
15,640,3,0

E. Excepted 11th Sept. 1780

Bill drawn in favour of Messrs Grandal 7048,3,0
D. Gourlade & Moylan at 40 days ... 3000,00
D. to D. at D. ... 1500,0,0
D. to D. at 3 Mos ... 4100,00 Errs
15640,3,0

Hamburg 11th July 1777. Invoice & bill of Lading of Merchandize shipped by J. Reyse on board the Ship Henrietta, Patrick Brownell Master, to be there delivered to the order of J. Lamar Jr. & Co. & by them to be reshipped to the West Indies for Account, risque & by order & on account & risque of the United States of America subject to the orders of the Secret Committee of the said States & consigned in conformity to the orders & agreement of Willing, Morris & Co. of Philadelphia as advised. Marks & numbers as in the margin.

ABC 25 bales Osnaburgs 25 bales Ticklenburghs 16 Chests Dowlas, 9 Bales ravens Duck 22 bales Sail Cloth 28 bales of Cloth 10 bales [illegible] Hlaams 25 bales Blankets, 2 Bales Diapers.

G H I. 30 Bales Osnabrigs 26 bales Ticklenburgs 14 Chests Dowlas 8 Bales of Ravens duck 5 Bales Sail Cloth 24 bales of Cloth, 15 bales Sail cloth, 10 bales Hlaams 25 bales Blankets 2 bales Diapers

N I P. 27 bales Osnaburgs 24 bales Ticklenburgs 16 Chests of Dowlas, 23 bales of Cloth 20 Do sail cloth 9 Do Ravens Duck, 10 Do. Hlaams 2 Do Diapers 17 Do Blankets 2 Chests German Serges

S. T. W.

S.T.W. 10 bales Brabanters 19 Chests Dowlas 26
bales Cloth 20 D^o Sail cloth 9 D^o Ravens
Duck 10 D^o Osnaburgs 10 D^o Blaams 2 D^o Diaper
The Amount of this Invoice in Bank Mark 229638.9.
Charges on Invoice 8704.12.8
233,343,5.8
Commission Insurance & p^r Cent 11,667.3.4
15.M.245,010.9.
Jean Nantes Cr Feby 1770 Errors Excepted Jno Rop.
The Number of Bales & Chests 571 vizt Schweighausen
is said to have paid Charges for bringing that
12^c from Hamburg

Hamburg 31 Decr 1769 — Invoice headed exactly
as the last
V G 3 bales Cloth 6 D^o black mark sail cloth 16 Bales
Blankets 3 bales Cloth 8 D^o Cloth 18 D^o Sail Cloth
3 D^o Osnaburgs 12 D^o Ravens Duck 9 D^o Strip^d
blankets 43 D^o Ticklenburg 27 Chests Dowlas
33 bales Bergen op Zoom amounting to
171 bales & Chests

Amount of Invoice 73,879.
Wm Schweighausen charges on 180
bales & Chests 1578.2
Commission &c 5 p^r Cent 3763,4
Nantes 4th Feby 1770. E.E. Jno Rop 79828.15

A.S. Hamburg 31st Oct. 1777 Invoice Num. 2
as the first
9 bales of Cloth 7 D.o blue and Cloth 2 D.o Osnaburgs 12 bales Ravens duck 27 D.o blankets
4 D.o Cloth 7 D.o cloth 6 D.o Tuckenburg. 24 Chests
Doubled 11 bales Bergenopsoom
amount.g to 157 bales 4 Chests
Cost of Invoice 61186,6
Wm Schweighauser paid for bringing
157 bales 4 Chests from Hamburg 857,128
Commiss.n at 5 p.r C.t 3102.4.
65,146,6,8

Nantes 4th Feb.y 1778 I. H. & Co.s Rcp.

Bills of lading signed Patrick Brown Nantes
4th Feb.y 1778 shipped by J. D. Schweighauser Consigned
to Willing Morris & Co.s

V & 50 bales, 27 boxes, 18 bales } Merchandise

A.S. 18 bales on account Bresque as per
Invoice Ship Henriette
Bill of Loading signed J. Benabé Defrance
28th Feb.y 1778 shipped by J. D. Schweighauser

Consigned to Willing Morris & Co.

A B C. 154 bales Tobacco
G H I 156. D°
N I P 138. D°
S I W 105. D°
double & single mark four Ship Boreas

The Merchandize appears to have all been shipped from Hamburgh by John Parish & consigned to J. D. Schweighauser agreeably to the backings of the Invoices. There are no Invoices signed by John Parish. The Bills of Loading are some in Dutch & some in French

Bill of Lad.g in Dutch signed Patrick Bowine Hamburg 11 July 1777 shipped on board the Henrietta by John Parish & consigned to J. D. Schweighauser

A B C. 50 bales N°s 1 to 50
16 Kisten N°s 51 to 66
91 Ballen — 67 to 157

Bill of Lading as above except the contents

G H I 56 Ballen N°s 1 to 56
14 Kisten — 57 — 70
89 Ballen — 71 — 159

N I P 59 Ballen. N° 1 à 51
— 10. Kisten — 52. 67
— 81. Ballen — 68. 148
— 2 Kisten 149. 150

Bill of Loading no above except Contents is

S. I W. 10 Ballen N°. 1. à 10
— 19 Kisten 11. 29
— 76 Ballen 30. 105.

The above were all shipped on board the Henriette
P. Brown Master for Nantes consigned as above
on Nieback of the Bills of Loading is endorsed
The Contents delivered Aug. 1777. nothing more

Bill of Loading in Duteh signd Patrick Browne
Hamburg 31 Dec.r 1777 shipped on board the
Henriette for Nantes & consigned as before.

V. G. N°. 117 — 177 Packen
118. 144 — 27 Kisten
145 177. — 33 Packen — Endorsed — The Con
tents delivered Dec.r 1777

Bill of Loading in french signed by Boucher
Hamburg 3 Dec.r 1777 shipped by Jon Paish
on

on board the Mercure, but then about 100 ton consigned as above

A S. N° 1 to 72 — 72 Balles

80. 122 — 43

123. 146 — 24 Caisses

115. 24.

Bill of Loading as the last except Contents

C. L. N° 1. to 20. 20 Balles

21. 29 — 9 Caisses

30. 151 — 122. Balles

152. 165 — 14 Caisses

166, 171 — 12 ——

154 Balles 23 Caisses

Bill of Loading as the last except Contents

P W. N° 1 to 129 — 129 Balles

130. 131 — 2 Caisses

131. 148 — 16

149. 172 — 24

147 — 26

Endorsed on the back. The Contents delivered Nov. 5. 1771.

Bill of Loading in Dutch P. Brouwer 31 Oct. 1771

no marks or numbers, supposed tobe for the Lead

"ten hundert twey und sechszig Stucken Bley

The foregoing amounts 162 pounds 6 shillings and 6 pence Sterling delivered Dec[r] 1777

From the foregoing Documents it may be shewn how great the difference is between what was shipped by J[n] Parish from Hamburg to Nantes & what appears to have been shipped by M[r] Schweighauser to the U. S. or rather to Willing, Morris, & Co

N. B. There do not appear to be any Invoices from John Parish those mentioned are in the hand writing of John Ross.

The Account current is dated July 9[th] 1777
Signd Robert Morris for Self & [redacted] Ross
Secondary Accounts D[r] to Morris & Ross &c

Ship Hopes Cargo G. Curtain	£3908,0.6
Jamaica packet D[o] B. Weeks	15 56,11.10
Brig[t] Polly D[o] J[o] McIvers	1936.4.8
Lord Camden D[o] G. Godden	828.2.11.8
Sloop Tristram D[o] W[m] Scot	522.1.9
Sloop James D[o] Alex[r] Gillis	1026.9.11
Brig Betsey D[o] J[o] Norman	1975.3.10
Brig Commerce D[o] Bonner	3666.3.9
Brig[t] Polly D[o] Harding	2310.8.0

£ 26,084.16.11

To our order to Mr. Rose to credit
The U. States £3356.7.10 Stg. 3217 hf. C.
being the average Exchange at which
we have sold Sundry Bills to him Amo. 7300,
Our Commission on s. Bills 365. 0. 1

£33,750. 0. 0

Morris & Ross Dr. to Sundry Acts
Cash received of the Treasurer £33,750. 0. 0

The following is an extract from a letter of Robt. Morris to the Commercial Committee (on file)

Nantes. May 21. 1778.

I am informed by a letter from John Ross (of) dated the 9th inst. of the safe arrival at that port of the Hermiette Capt. Brown & Le Bonne Capt. Green, two ships fitted out & loaden by J. Ross in France, but having no letter from J. Ross I cannot tell what

Articles these Cargoes exactly consist of. There must be a considerable quantity of Goods on Continental Account some on account of this State & some part probably private property. Capt Brown was delivering his cargo to Jn Bradford & Capt Green I understand Supplyd to the Board at Cambridge & Boston, I think it would be prudent to let both these Cargoes remain in store until the Invoices arrive, which must be very soon, & when they come to my hands first you shall be made acquainted therewith directly. I expect these Goods will give much satisfaction & very sincerely congratulate you on their arrival — Capt Thos Bell now here desires to thank Mr Rob's dispatches were left behind, as the fleet sailed down Dorchester Bay

Bay were then expected"

Extract of a Letter from the Comm.
Committee to Jn.o Bradford dated June 2. 1778.

We have received a letter a few days ago
from Robert Morris, in w.h he advises us
that you had advised him of the safe
arrival of the Henrietta Capt.n Brown,
& the LeBrune Capt.n Green, two ships
fitted out & loaden by Mess.rs J.n Ropier
Francis, That Capt.n Brown is deliver.d
his cargo to you — that Capt.n Green
has applyed to the board of war at Bos-
ton — that Mr. Morris thot it prudent
that both cargoes should remain in
store till Invoices arrive. When the
cargoes come to your possession act
thereon & give able to orders you shall

receive from Congress or from me or from
the continental board of war. When the enemies
of the Henrietta & Betsy were learned
them to be. That they knew not who ordered
him to purchase the Hermaids cargo. That
he had distributed the Goods between the
Clothier, navy board & deputy a. G. M. & had
drawn on them in favor of P. Brown 4000 lb.
Why this draft is made they know not, nor
who gave him orders to distribute the Goods."

Mr. Bradford returns, on file, shews that
these Goods were not public property — Does
prove that Mr Bradford was either an ig-
norant man, or that he was connected in
the imposition — at least the returns have
this appearance.

Extract of a letter from the Com-
mercial Committee Boston to Robert Morris
dated Jan.y 30 A. 1778. We agree that it is
of much importance to prevent Mr Ross

with the means of repaying the money the Commissioners at Paris have advanced, as well as for his own advances, & for that purpose we fully approve of your altering the bills of loading of some of the Cargoes of tobacco now on board Fleets in Maryland & Virginia formerly consigned to Mr Tho.s Morris & taking new bills of loading consigned to Mr Ross or his order to be disposed of by him, & the nett proceeds applied to the purposes aforesaid. This we authorize you to do as Mr Ross has transacted this business in a satisfactory manner you will please to write & sign a new letter to him which we will also sign

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& how deplorable it is, to see this knave Robt Morris thus imposing upon the simplicity of the Committee — They had no Invoices, bills of loading nor any other documents to shew, what was the amount of the Goods delivered on public account, whether they covered the advances of public monies always made, or of what kind & quality they were. Yet they fall immediately into Morris's views & order the public property into the hands of J. Ross for Morris, before they know that he has accounted for one shilling of the 100,000 pounds advanced, & say he had hopes of the success of this journey, when they do not know one syllable of this transaction, but from

directing him to dispose of those Cargoes &c. See Order of Congress Aug.st 1. 1778 relative to sundry Cargoes to be applyd to pay J. Rob.s See also a Letter on the Comm.l Committee book 3 Aug.st 1778 to De Yrarney, relative to these Cargoes. N.B. There is a Letter directing Mr R.obs to have the Cargoes insured —— The expelled are the Speedwell, Braxton, Gov.r Johnston & Morris.

By the order of Congress of the 1.st Aug.st 1778 the Commiss.rs at Paris were to settle the J.o Rob.s Accounts. ~~The Commiss.rs~~ The Commiss.rs informd Mr Rob.s of their ~~power~~ readiness to settle his Accts & desired he would send the Invoices & Bills of Loading for the Goods shipp.d. He refused to send them or to come & settle saying it was to the Committee only he was accountable & to them he had sent the Invoices & bills of loading — The Commission was dispatched by

by Congress — Dr Franklin was appointed Minister plenipotentiary & then without any authority that appears, their being none of the date alledged, he directs one Dr Bancroft, a Surgeon & Secret. Wharton a Bankrupt, to settle Mr Ross's Accts with Mr Ross's Attorney to have submitted to him.(a) The following are the proceedings on that business

By desire of his Excellency Benjn Franklin Esqr Minister plenipotentiary from the U. States of America at the Court of Versailles, we the Subscribers have carefully examined the within Account of Mr J. Ross against the S. States, by comparing the several debits made therein with the original

(a) The following Extract from a Letter signed J. Ross & addressed — Their Excellencies the Plenipotentiarys of the U. States of America — dated Nantes 28th March 1778 — will shew what was Mr Ross's claim upon the U. S. & that it was not in his contemplation to settle any account in Europe. When Dr Franklin drew a bill on Mr Ross that from certain transactions of the D^r he knew would be inconvenient to him to answer, he chose rather to settle that bill by proposing to the D^r the following mode of settlement — The Extract is in these

Invoices from Merch.ts at Hamburg &c of whom
it appears he purchased the Cargoes of Merchan
dize that he has charged in his s.d Acc.t & with
the original Acc.ts of disbursments for Ships,
their out-fits & other advances & have
compared the respective credits given
by the s.d Mr. Ross, with the original Acc.ts
Sales & Acc.t curr.t — Upon the whole
we do hereby certify that the within
balance of eighteen thousand & seventy
seven pounds, eight shillings & two pence
sterling, appears to us to have been owing
on the 1.st day of July 1779 from the s.d U. States
to the s.d Mr. Jno. Ross. As witness our hands
at Passy this 10.th day of July 1779

signed Sam.l Wharton
Edw.d Bancroft

following words "The Committee of Congress
having concluded to make me no more
remittances, Inviting to your Excellencies,
those Advances w.ch you have been pleased
to make me already, must now come
to the debit of the Committee with you, & their
credit in Account with me. I owe besides
on acc.t of the purchases of last order of Willems
& Co the U. S. upwards of Liv. 250,000 w.ch has
been subject to interest for some months past
& must ultimately be charged to the States.
N B. at 5 Liv. 4 sols to a dollar the 250,000.tt amounts

Copy of the Account accompanying this Certificate

Dr The U. States of America in Acc^t wth J^no Ross & Co

1779 April 1st To balance due p^r Acct settled & passed this day £19,823,8,10½

July 1st To interest due thereon from 1st April to this date 3 M^ths at 5 p^r Ct — 241,11,10½

£19,564,19,9

May 1st By remittance rec^d from Mr Ryan d'ordre & Monsr to acct of Sale of the Cargo of Flour at Lorient £35000

July 1st by Interest 2 months at 5 p^r Ct. — 291 13.4.

35,291,13.4 Exch. 1407,11.7. at 30½ [redacted]

By balance due this 1st day of July 1779 charge to the debit of the U.S. in new Acct [redacted]

£19,564,19,9

Paris 1st July 1779 Errors Excepted J^no Ross

N.B. Postages, & sundry charges of Negociation

1. Dlls 6730 72/104 So that by his own statement there ought to have remained Dlls 2209 32/104 to the credit of the U. S. out of the 9000 advanced in America instead of paying this balance he continues to obtain drafts from France to about Dlls 9777 as the balance due to him, his partner Robert Morris being at the head of the Treasury, & absolute in Congress.

The also store rent &c chargeable on the merchandize bags on the Island Normoutier are to be debited in the next account with the U.S. by J.o Rofs.

This certifys to whom it may concern that the course of Exchange from Paris on London stood with little or no variation from the 1.st of April last until the 1.st day of July at 29/16 pr Rec.d That the balance of £ 18,079,8,2. Ster.g stated by the preceding settlement at the Exchange of 29/16 amounts to 447853.3.6 tournois. In testimony whereof I subscribe this at Paris 8 Sept.r 1783

T Grand.

[redacted] I the underwritten do hereby certify to whom it may concern that Messrs Wharton & Bancroft North.n citizens of the U.S. of America at present in Nantes, have at my request

request examined with care the Accounts of Mr. John Rop with the U. States, & I knowing them to be men of integrity, & skilld in such affairs & being therefore perfectly satisfyd with the report they have made as above, do recommend it to the Committee of Commerce to make immediate provision for payment of the ballance which appears due to him on the 1st. July 1779 — And in case of any receiving funds from them for that purpose, I will discharge the same in France in compliance with an order of Congress dated 11th August 1778.

Given at Passy, near Paris, this 8th day of August 1779. Signd

B. Franklin, Minister plenipot.y from the U. States To the Court of France.

(a) See the 1st of Augt there being nothing relative to it on the 11th

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(a) The following papers with these [illegible] Franklin acted in direct opposition to [illegible] Congress [illegible]

There is the only Document furnished upon these extensive Accounts, which is merely bringing forward a Balance.

In Congress Jan.y 17.th 1781 (a)

Ordered that the Board of Treasury direct the balance of nineteen thousand four hundred & forty five pounds eleven shillings & eleven pence sterling to be entered to the credit of John Rose on the Books of the U. States That

(a) This is not on the printed Journals.

the s.d balance bear an interest of 6 ℔ Ct. pr
Ann.m till paid. Extract from the Minutes

A. D Woodruff for
Sec.y Thomson

Treasury Office April 7.th 1791 In compliance with an order of Congress of the
27.th Jan.y 1791 — Ordered that the Auditor gen.l
cause to be entered in the Treasury books
to the credit of J.n Ross Esq.r the balance
of nineteen thousand four hundred and
sixty five pounds eleven shillings &
eleven pence sterl.g to bear an interest
of 6 pr Ct. pr Ann.m till paid. J. Clarkson Sec.y
James Milligan Esq.r — (a) N.B. Not on the printed Journals

[illegible] the United States entered upon & pended June 28th 1781. Resolved That Robert Morris Esq.r be & he is hereby empowered to deliver to Jno Ross in part payment of his Account the Bills of Exchange which were committed to him to be disposed of by a resolution of the fourth of this month the restriction in the s.d Resolution notwithstanding, the s.d Jno Ross agreeable with his proposal, upon receiving them at par, engaging to bring no charge for usual damages in case of non payment but merely to return them. [illegible] Bonds &c These

a This is on the printed Journals.

These proceedings of Congress appear to have been grounded on the following report of the Board of Treasury — & as Mr Morris the then Superintendant was neither in partnership with Mr O. Jno Rap, nor interested in the business it is not probable that he prompted the Board to make the report, it is certain that he did not attempt to open the eyes of Congress upon this iniquitous imposition, as he did in the case of Careau.

At a Board of Treasury held Jan.y 13. 1781.
Present Jno Gibson, Ezekiel Forman & Oliver Wolcott Commissioners

The Board beg leave further to report — That they have had under their consideration the report of the Chamber

of Accounts & the Auditor genl. the Account of Jo. Ross, referred to them by Congress on the 3d. of Jany. with directions to liquidate the Account & devise ways & means for payeng the balance due to him & beg leave to submit the same for the decision of Congress on the point submitted by the Auditor general. — The Board are however of opinion from the Certificates adduced that Mr. Ross has complyd on his part, with every requisition in the settlement of his Accounts under the direction of B.r Franklin by a special resolution of Congress for that purpose dated Dec.r 10.th 1778 (a) But were

(a) These were admirable Commissioners of the Treasury who suffer B. Franklin to impose upon them as having an authority w.h if they had examined the Journals referred to they would have found did not exist; to report it as their opinion that Mr. Ross had complied with all the requisites in this settlement, when there was not a single document to support the pretended balance against the U. S. nor to specify on what it arose. No Invoice, Bill of Loading, receit of the Goods by any Continental Officer or Agent, nor even an Account stated

appear unreasonable for him to wait
for payment of his balance which for
any thing that appears to the contrary
is well settled, until Dr Franklin
who is in possession of the papers on
wch the balance is founded may send
them forward — The Board are further of

opinion that a commutation of the interest from the date of settlement viz.t 1.st July 1779 to the present time ought to be made which by the report amounts to the Sum of £ 1960, 3, 9.. w.ch with the former balance of £ 19445, 11, 11, ster.g the foll.g Resolution is therefore submitted Resolv.d That Bills of Exchange be drawn on the Minister plenipotentiary of the U. S. at the Court of — to the amount of £ 19445, 11, 11. ster.g to discharge the principal & interest of the public debt due to Jn.o Reps & that the Board of Treasury be authorised & directed to carry the resolution into effect.

The report referred to by the Board are as follows — Chamber of Acc.ts N.o 1.
Philadelp.a

Philadelphia Janr. 5th 1781.

The Commissioners report — That they have examined the copy of an Account of John Rose, certified by J. P. Jones, Thomas Hutchins & Jos. Wharton junr. to be a true & just copy of an original Acct. current with the U. States as settled by Saml Wharton & Edw. Bancroft at the request of his Excellency Benjn. Franklin Esqr. Minr. &c as by his Certificate dated Paris 8br. Decr. 1779, who mad the balance due him on the 1st. July 1779 ster £1007 1 0 2 — That the interest thereon from the 1st. July to this day being one year, six months & five Days at 5 prCt. is £1,360,3,9 — £1945 11 11

But as they have not been presented with the original Acct.

(a) It is astonishing that the public Boards should have made so silly a mistake as to call the balance of an account, an account; they had seen no account of Jn. Rose's, but a certificate that on an account which they pretend to have seen, but which has not appeared here nor by Dr. Franklin's letters are we likely ever to see it. There is no account or Vouchers were ever [illegible]

and Vouchers, & the order of Congress of the 4th Augt. 1778 quoted by Mr. Franklin not being in the printed Journals & they not having it in their power to determine, whether or no he has receivd any payment on Acct. since the said settlement in Paris, pursuant to s. order of Congress, they cannot pretend to determine thereon & are of opinion all such Accounts should be liquidated & reported on by the commercial Committee — Signd Wm Govett James Milligan Audr. gen.l & J. De Mercier

Auditor general's Office Jan.y 7. 1781

I do certify to the Commissioners of the Board of treasury, that I have look'd over an Account curr.t of J. Ross with the United States, a copy of which is mentiond in the within report of the Commissioners of the Chamber of Accounts, dated 5th instant, & find that by the decease of Dr. Franklin &c, Samuel Wharton & Edw.d Bancroft at Passy on the 1.st July 1779 examined & compared this Acct. with the on

original Invoices & other papers & vouchers
the balance said to be due to Mr Rop on said
day as appears by the Certificate of those gentle-
men together with that of the Minister ple-
nipotentiary annexed to that Act — These
being the only documents produced, without
any other Vouchers whatever to support the
charges which constituted the gross sum ex-
hibited in his Acct — I can form no opinion
of my own respecting the justice & propri-
ety of the claim — Before this, or any other
Account under similar circumstances
can with propriety be liquidated here,
it seems to me necessary to establish
a point which I believe is not yet fully
explained or understood — Settlements of this
nature made in Europe are either final and
decisive or they are not so; if they are, there
can be no use in a second liquidation here
If they are not so — which I am rather inclined

to believe in this case, from the reference that have already been made — there not only general Accounts current, but also particular Invoices, Bills of Loading, receits for monies paid with every other paper necessary to elucidate the fact must be presented in order that justice may be done to the parties concerned

Until this point is determined by those whose province it is, I apprehend that nothing decisive can be done with such Accounts in the state they are produced here — Whatever the determination on this may be, in either case I conceive it absolutely necessary that it should be made appear, to whom all goods shipped from Europe were consigned or who received them in this Country, in order that the proper entries may be made, & those persons called to account for the application of the Articles which I am convinced is as

necessary as an evening for clerk

signd James Milligan A. G.

War Office June 27th 1781 Ordered that the Auditor Genl debit John Ross on the publick books to the credit of Robert Morris for the bills of Exchange drawn on Holland & Spain agreeable to the underwritten schedule, which were delivered to the s.d Jo Ross in part payt. of his Acct in pursuance of an Act of Congress to the s.d Robt Morris 20th instant.

On Henry Laurens Amsterdam at 6 mth sight Guilders 40958

On J.o Jay D.o 23083 Dlls.

On D.o at 60 days 27000 —

John Reps account dated 3 June 1781 for the above, Bills of exchange promising to charge no Damages if returned. Patrick Jerralds, statement to the Comptroller is without date as follows

By an act of Congress of the 17th Jan.y 1781. I find that the late Board of Treasury was authorised to pay to the credit of John Rep. the Sum of £19445, 11.11. ster.g at 4 6. p.dol.r equal to ——— 86,424.70

Which is to be added its interest from the 17 Jan.y 1781 to the 28 June following inclusive being 5 M.ths 7 days at 6 p.C.t ——— 2,261.40

88,686.28

From which is to be deducted the following sett. Exchange p.d hereby the superintendant of finance in pursuance of a resolution of Congress of the 28th June 1781. as p.r Mr. Howes's certificate hereunto

5 sett. on Mr. Lauens 40958 gu.ld
21,86400. ——— 16560.35 } 42362,35
9 Setts on Mr. Jay ——— 25.702 }

46,323.83

To wch add interest from 1st June to 4th
Decr following 5 Months 11 days do 5 p Ct £ 1149.2
27,566.85

From wch is to be deducted 20000
Livres being the amount of the
Superintendants order in his favor
on Mr Grand Banker in Paris
dated 4 Decr 1781 on wch date he is
to be charged therewith Viz: at 5/8 p Ct 3703.7,5
10,529,00

To wch is to be added interest to 31st Dec: 1782. 14 m 27 d. 679.15
11,209,5

Find from this Statement there appears
to be due to Jr Reps the Sum of
eleven thousand, two hundred &
nine dollars & 5/90 pieces. I am
of opinion that the claim made
by Mr Reps for a loss sustained by him on
the negociating the bills of Exchange drawn
on Mr Laurens & Mr Jay cannot be admitted
as the act of Congress on wch those bills accrued
seems to preclude him from any thing
of that nature. Pr Jerrell.
Jam: Milligan Compt

Comptrollers Office 31st Decr 1792 The
above balance of 11,209.5. dlls at 4/6 pr Dollr
is equal to two thousand five hundred
twenty two pounds sterlg or at 5/ pr Dollr
is equal to sixty thousand five hundred &
twenty eight Livres 10 p sols tournois

Not signed

On the same paper is the following Receit

Received Jan.y 3d 1793 of the Register of the
Treasury a Warrant drawn on the
Treasurer of the Eastern by the Super
intendant of Finances for eleven thousand
two hundred Nine dollars 90/100 being in
full for the ballance due to me, as per the within
Note. Signed J. Rosp.

A proper perpartory to be a Tran-
script of J.o Rosp's acct in the Books
This makes J. Rosp Dr. to Cash 90.608.25—
Vouchers by Sundrys The same sum, &
agrees with Mr Ferrals Statement.

Rosp

Messrs Morris & Ross are chargeable
on Acct of their contract with Govt. 90,000

Mr Ross with Sums recd at Paris &c
Morris & Ross for Remittances by Hewes & Smith 29571.53
27737 8

To sundry Cargoes of public tobacco
— say to — remitted to J. Ross — see
Res: of Congress 1st Aug. 1778 & Letter to
Mr Morris 30 Jan.y 1778 — 40,000

Paid to Jno Ross on Acct by the
Superintend.s of Revenue — 90,608.45

To the amount of the goods pur-
chased, as Messrs Morris & Ross
say, for the public, by original
Invoice at Hamburg &c Marks 543,673,11,8
ds at 3 for a dol.r or 4/6 Sterl.g make 184000 Dollars
the public having advanced the money
to make the expence & risque therein
recover the value such goods sold at
in America at that time or Prices — 543,672

891,589.16

From which must be deducted
the original cost & charges which
should be credited to Morris & Ross
say 184000 × 16,000 — 200,000

Balance due the U.S. by Morris & Ross 691,589.16
Interest on Do

It does not appear that Mr Ross made any other requirements but those from Hamburg, tho Mr Morris, his partner says he executed the contract for 45,000 ℔s. There is some reason to suppose that Mr Ross was a partner of Willing, Morris & Co the letters of Mr Ross to Mr Lee go some measure to prove this point.

The Contracts & orders referred to in Mr Morris's letter of the 24. Jan.y 1778 are 1.st a Contract with Tho.s Willing Rob.t Morris the 9.th Sept.r 1775 signed Willing Morris & Co to send a ship or Ships to Europe with the utmost speed & secrecy & there purchase at the cheapest rate they can 1000 Barrels powder 12 brass six pounders 2000 stand good Arms viz Soldiers arms Lab.d Bayonets & 5000 gun locks double bridled. In case the aforesaid quantity of Ammunition cannot be procured that they shall purchase as much & all the Brass Cannon as shall be had as will make as much powder as is deficient

The dangers of the Seas & capture by english & other men of war or armed vessels excepted — free port & Continuance to themselves & exports as a Supercargo — freight 20/ ster. M/ on each barrel of powder 20/ ster. p for each brass gun & 20/ p. for each Bond Salt petre of the same size & D.° of Powder & 1/ ster. p for each square foot of the Irons &c — That this Contract shall be at the risque of the owners. Merchandize & the s.d Wm. Willing & Robert Morris the whole risque of the ship or vessels. 15,000 dlls advanced on the above Contract to be returned if the Articles cannot be obtained. — A permit to export —

Second Contract made with Robert Morris & John Ross the 1.st May 1776 — That a voyage or voyages shall be forthwith undertaken to some proper port or ports in Europe by the s.d Rob.t Mor.s & Jn.o Ross for the procuring with the utmost speed & dispatch the following Articles viz: 250 sheets copper 300 Boxes tin Virginia wire, 10 tons sulphur. 1500 p.rs Russia duck, 2000 p.rs ravens duck 200,000 flints, 80 tons lead

3,500 pr. Hamburg Dowlas, 1100 pr. Osnaburgs
2000 pr. Tickenburgs — & the s. Committee
of Secrecy do hereby agree to advance & pay
to the s. Robt. Morris & Jno. Bop the sum
of 90,000 dlls contained in money to be laid
out, by them in the produce of those Co-
lonies & shipped on board proper vessels
to some proper port or ports in Europe
as afores. to be disposed of on the best
terms & the nett proceeds thereof laid
out in the purchase of the Articles
afores. which s. vessel or vessels are to
be chartered for the use of the U. Colonies
The owners running the risque of the
sea, & the United Colonies to ensure
them agt. British cruizers or captors
& the 5 pr. Cent commission shall be
allow'd for procuring the cargoes to be
exported — And the s. Committee will
attend

allow & pay to the Gent. Reps, who doth desire
leave to go in person to Europe to superintend
this business & to purchase & ship upon
the best terms the returns before mentioned over & above the duties & other lawful
charges which he may be obliged to pay in
procuring & shipping the same, a clear commission of 6 p.ct. upon the returns so to
be purchased & shipped by him, in lieu &
full satisfaction of all commissions &c.
he may give a factor or factors in Europe or
which he might otherwise claim for his
personal services in this business. The
Returns to be landed in some safe & convenient port, or place in the U. Colonies
& notice thereof given as soon as possible to the s.d Committee — The s.d Morris
& Reps promising & agreeing that they
will render to the said Committee a proper acc.t of the expenditure of the £90,000 &

It is mutually agreed between the s^d Parties that if the aforesaid Articles, or any of them cannot be had, then their value to be laid out in the purchase of arms or ammunition, salt petre, coarse woollens or linens

Copy of a letter to J^n Rob^s in the Letter book of the Secret Committee. Sepr 27. 1776

Mr J^n Roberts / Sir, As several of the Vessels by which we heretofore ordered out Blanketts & Cloathing for the use of the publick have unfortunately been taken, We think it prudent to give fresh orders, in hopes the goods may yet reach America in time to be very serviceable, we therefore request you to purchase on the very best terms you can immediately on the receipt of this Letter. 10,000 striped blankets, 30,000 y^ds 6/4 broad cloth, brown & blue colors from 3/ to 6/ p^r y^d. 3000 different colours for facings 4/ p^r y^d. 1000 p^r duffels or some such cloth at 90/. We wish immediately to get

above ordering you remittances to
buy for these goods, therefore you may
either employ any money already in
your hands on public Acc.t in this
purchase or selege your credit for
speedy payment as we are mak.g large
purchases of Rice, Indigo, Tobacco &c
for immediate exportation & the
approaching season will give us
a fine opportunity of getting these
goods to sea that. Where we have
been much hampered, during summer
by the Cruizers on our coast— You will
buy these goods where you can soon-
est get them — great Britain & Ireland
excepted — & you may send them out
by any good vessel belonging to

to America. But if none such offer immediately, you may charter a foreign vessel to take them & proceed for this coast, immediately with orders to get into the first place of safety the property can in the U. States of America - Whatever terms you fix shall be complied with, depending that you will have them as moderate as possible Once will load the vessel back to Europe immediately If any difficulty occurs to load getting these Goods sent to America direct, you may then ship them out to Mr. Bingham at Martinico, to Cornelius Stevenson, St Eustatia, Nicholas Governeur Curaçoa or S. Croix Cape Francois with orders to them to forward them to us, with all

possible dispatch by different conveyances. We beg your utmost attention & deligence in the execution of this order the Goods are extremely wanted & you must not loose one moment of time you may rest assured of soon being enabled to pay for them.

Copy of a report of the Commercial Committee to Congress.

The Commercial Committee having taken into consideration a letter from Mr de Francey dated Williamsburg 15 July 1778 & in consequence thereof examined into the circumstances of the several cargoes of tobacco mentioned in s.d letter by leave to report — That Mr. Morris wrote a letter to this Committee dated Manheim 24th Jun.y 1778 inclosing a copy of a letter from Mr. J.s Rob.t to him, dated

Copy of Mr. Jay's Letter of 1777, advising that the Commissioners at the Court of France, had advanced him 450,000 Livres Tournois to enable him to make good his Engagements & Engagements, for Goods he had purchased on Acct. of the U. States in conformity with Instructions given him by the Secret Committee & that he has engaged to repay the Commissioners whenever he can do it by remittances from America. Mr Morris conceiving it of importance that Mr Ross should be enabled to relieve the monies thus advanced to him, proposed to the Committee that some Cargoes of Tobacco, bodies on Government Account, & then lying in Maryland & Virginia might be consigned to the said Mr. Ross for that purpose as

4. From the Foreign Office returned by Mr Barclay

Dr. Mr J. Ross on Acct

1777 June 3. To his Bills on Amsterdam 1/3 May to order of J. Parish — 450,000

1780 Oct. 31. To do & Do Brenthen — 3,000

— Do Oct 31. Do — 7048. 3.

— Dec. 20. Do — 1500

— Remittance to him at Nantes by order of Mr Deane — 25,000

well as to re-imburse him of his own Advances & the Committee concurring in this opinion the Cont. authorized & empowered Mr. Morris by their Letter of the 30th Jan.y last to direct such consignmts. In conformity thereto he immediately wrote to the Agents who had the care of the following vessels & Cargoes directing them to the Address of Mr. Ross. Snow Speedwell 142 hhds. Tob.o Capt. Kendall Brig.t Braxton 120 D.o Capt. Jarvis — Brig.t Gov.r Johnston 176. — Brig.t Morris, D.o 269 Capt. Gunnison 1007 hhds. in all. These Consignmts were made to the consignees of J. Ross, before M.r de Francy appeared at Congress, & did not happen till the middle of Feb.y last, consequently cannot in any shape be construed or deemed a breach of the Contract afterwards made with him.

What a wise & faithful Servant this was, without knowing that Mr. Ross, had furnished anything to the public for the advances made here Vinkeroy, but from the vague way of Mr. Morris a public concerned order those public property into his hands, & to be consistent never made any enquiry into the application of these Tobaccos or of the Monies he received. Thus one further wording

Your Committee find that Mr. Ross has in conformity with Instructions he received from the Secret Comtee purchased & shipped Goods for the publick Servt to the amount of £60,000 Sterl.g (a) of wch the whole or nearly the whole are safely landed in America & that he has received towards the cost of these Goods £50000 # from the Commissioners equal to about 20,000 Dollrs & part of the neat proceeds resulting from sundry Cargoes & produce & Bills of Exchange purchased with 90,000 Contl dlls equal to £33750 Pennsa currt remitted to him wch we cannot reasonably expect to realize above £15000 Sterl.g consequently a balance of £15,000 Sterl.g remains

For another guilds this simple Contt into an accumulation of Debtors, Yet now appears that Morris & Ross never accounted for any of them

(a) There does not appear to have been a single document for this apportion but the declaration of Mr. Morris one of the Parties, it was certainly false, was intended as an imposition to procure more public property & no excuse can be made for the Committee, but the pitiful one that — as J. Browne swears of the Secret Comtee see Journals 1774 & 49 — that they had a confidence in his integrity. I am certain they had no reason for it —

remains due to him; besides the Advances he has made for the cost of the ship Queen of France & her outfit by order of the Commissioners.(a) These debts being contracted, recognized & the consignment of the four Cargoes of Tobo. ordered previous to the Contract with M. de Francy your Commission of Injunction ought to go towards the address of Mr. J. Ross agreeable to the Instructions given by Mr. Morris.

a) This is an untruth — the Commissioners gave no such order, two of them, Lees and Lee wrote so to Mr. Ross, & denied his authority for such an assertion — he produced none. but the honor of the Comm.rs for the honor of Congress for the honor of human nature, it is to be hoped none of them drew up this false & foolish report — it must have been Robert Morris himself that wrote it. A. Lee

Commercial Committee York Feb.y
20.th 1778. Mr. John Hop/ Sir — Your friend
Mr. Robt. Morris having laid before
us a copy of your Letter to him dated
Paris 9.th Dec.r last whereby we observe
the American Commissioners at the
Court of France had granted you a draft
on their bankers for £50,000 st. to make
good your engagements. We believe you
in advances made in the execution
of certain contracts Orders of the
Secret Com.e of Congress &c. & them you had
promised to replace when you should
be enabled by remittances on the pub.c
account, in order to enable
you to comply with this promise
we have directed the Sold.r parcels of
tobacco be addressed to you or y.r Order

142 hhds by the Snow Speedwell Capn Ferg.
120 Do. Brig. Branton Capn James Do
476 Do. Brig. Govr. Johnston Capt. Buchanan Do.
269 Do. Brig. Morris Capt. Gammon. Do.
1007 in all, wch. if they arrive safe, will be more than
for your accommodation. These Cargoes
are directed to Messrs. Saml. & J. H. Delaps
at Bordeaux, Mr. J. D. Schweighauser
at Nantes, Messrs. Berard brothers
at L'Orient. Mr. Andrew Limozin at
Havre de Grace Mr. Mark Gregory at
Dunkirk, Mr. H. Greig at Marstand.
The Capt. in will make the first safe
port they can, & the Consignees will consult
you as to the sales & account with you
for the neat proceeds & credit the U. S.
therewith, retaining in your hands any balance
justly due to you on your former transactions

for ... ble, pray the Commiss.rs the amount of the Debentures made to you, or such part thereof as you are instructed by these Letters to pay. Dispatch these arrangements a balance becomes due, to the U. States, we authorize & direct you to invest the same in an assortment of Articles suitable for clothing an Army &c. you will be pleased to ship by such good opportunities

(a) By the preceding statement of the Committee suggested by Mr Morris himself the Amount of Mr Ross shipments & purchases which however have never been proved to have been delivered to the U. States — was £50,000 Stg

They state that he has received from the Treasury 60,000 or £15,000 } £35,000 Stg
from the Commiss.rs at Paris — 20,000 }

1087 hhds Tobacco the cert. price in Avenue being £ 4 sh. p.r hund. 4 2300 Stg
Rec.d from the Treasury here — 2 1968

99268
50000
£ 49268 Stg

Balance due the U. S. even if he had delivered the Goods there, which is to be never done.

as you can meet for any ports
consigning the same to our order & di-
vide the quantity to be shipped on dif-
ferent vessels so as not to require too
much on any one. We depend on your
care & accustomed zeal, to have this be-
sness done, to the best advantage.
The vessels that carry the tobacco
are all chartered except the Brig.
Morris Capt. Gunnison which belongs
to the U. States. You must therefore
supply the Capt. what may be ne-
cessary for the Ships disbursements
Valeo with a cargo of Salt, with which you will
order him back to any safe port he
can make in these States consigning
the same to our order & transmitting
us a bill of Loading for the Salt & this Remit
for amount of Supplies to the vessel.

4. Did Mr. Morris ever see the Bills of
Loading for the Goods pretended by Shipp
by Jo. Reps. if he did, where are they?
if he did not - how came he to deceive
the Committee & Pro them Congress - how
came he to pay the public money to Mr
Reps, when Superintendant of Finance
when he knew the demand was a false one?

The Letters you have order to pay
the freight of the Tobacco & their Cop
pers. & you have done with them
These vessels are all Laden & ready to sail
& have been so a considerable time
they are watching for our Enemy's ships
to be a little off their guard, so that an
opportunity may present for slipping out.
Therefore if they do not arrive as soon
as you could wish, still we hope they
will get safe at length — with much
regard we remain, Sir, Yr. Obed. Servts
signd Robt. Morris

P.S. If you can procure Insurance on the
several Cargoes of Tobacco valuing each
Hhd. at £30 stg. & the premium not
to exceed 25 pr. Ct. we authorize you to
make such Insurance, in order to secure
the remittance either by safe arrival or by

recovery of such Insurance
To Mr. Geo. Hop. of Philad.a care of Messrs
Isaac & J. H. Delaps Bordeaux

The above letter is in the hand writing of Robert Morris, it is not entered in the Books of the Commer.l Committee, it is not signed by any of the Committee or their order.

The following Copies are taken from Letters transmitted to the Committee for foreign correspondence and laid before Congress.

Mr. John Ross, Jun.r

Pepy April 13.th 1776.

The Papers you mention are in

the disposition of Mr. Wm Lee who is
gone to Germany – It is therefore not
in our power to comply with what you
desire, neither are we able to make you
any further advances. We wish you
would send us, with all convenient
expedition, Copies of the Invoices
& Bills of Loading for those Goods
which were paid for with the money
we formerly furnished you – We
do not think it within our pro-
vince to make an entire settlement
with you — The money in Mr.
Schweighausen's hands, w.ch you
say is under the direction & order
of Mr. Robt. Morris ought to be dis-
posed of according to those orders.
The

The trade being now free from this
Country it seems improper for us
to give the Passports you ask.
I. I. W.ᵐ W.ᵐ Lee
is at Frankfort
where a letter from
you will probably
find him. But his stay there is very uncertain.

Signed B. Franklin
Arthur Lee
John Adams

Mr Jona Rhoades.

Papy May 3. 1778

Sir In a former letter you wrote us that you would send us the Invoices &c of the Goods shipped on public account, we thought it necessary. We wrote for those which would answer for the money we had advanced to you The reason given in yours of the 18. does not appear to us at all sufficient. If it be unavoidable to seperate a part from the whole, we desire the whole may be sent agreable to your first proposal, which will also be of use to us by shewing the nature & extent of the Supplies that have been

69.

been sent. We therefore expect you will comply, without any further delay, with what we request to be as indispensable. You will be so good as to send us a copy of the order of the Commissioners, under which you say the late Queen of France was [illegible], as we find none such here. When you first applied to us for assistance you represented that you had made Contracts for Goods, in pursuance of orders from the Committee of Congress, which Contracts

if not [illegible] would destroy your credit & in
consequence hurt that of the Committee of Congress
it was agreed to furnish you with the Sum
you desired, & which you said would be sufficient to prevent those great inconveniency
on your pr[illegible] re to replace it. (a) It is now
near a [illegible]ime you have not performed
that p[illegible]romise. The disappointment has
been very inconvenient to us — probably it was
occasioned by your not receiving remittances
you expected. However we think you ought
to have forborne entering into such Contracts & Embarrassments, especially as it was
not expected or required of you by the Committee as appears by their letter to you
of Dec.r 30.th of which you have sent us an Ex

(a) This was dictated by Dr. Franklin, the only one of the then Commissioners who knew it, because the money was advanced when Franklin, Deane & Lee were in commission — Lee was absent when it was made, & Deane had been deposed from the public service.

extract, nor have they ever de[illegible]d it of us,
nor did you inform us when you made
the engagements or that you had any ex-
pectation of our assistance to discharge
them —— We therefore, [illegible] request
you, that we cannot give [illegible] hereinfore
you desire of drawing [illegible] Banks
for the immediate [illegible] mention
& desire you will not [illegible] be easy
dependence on aid [illegible] to we will use
in our power to grat[illegible]

Signed
B. [illegible]
A.
John Adams

Mr Jn. Reps Merchts Nantes

Passy Sepr 30. 1778

We have recived your Letter of the 22d Sept.
We take this opportunity to say that we
have no authority to give you either or-
ders or advice any farther than respects
the large sum of money w.h the Commis-
sioners put into your hands sometime
ago. Of the expenditure of this money
we have demanded an account, which
you have refused to give us. With your
private concerns we have nothing to do
If you have any power derived from the
Hon.ble Committee of Congress to that Comm.t
you must be responsible & look for In-
structions. We can never justify our

interfering in those affairs much less could we be justified in advancing more money to a gentleman who has refused to give us an acct. of a large sum already entrusted to him, not to mention the circumstances of indecency with wch. that refusal has been accompanied & with which most of your letters have been filled— We return to you the original Contract wch. you enclosed to us some time ago, that you may save yourself the trouble of writing letters to us— We now assure you that it is our fixed determination to have nothing farther to do with you, or any affair under your care, until you have laid before us, & settled, your accounts of the public monies you have received of the Commissioners unless we have Instructions from Congs.

signed B. Franklin
R. Lee
J. Adams

Mr. Jo. Ross, Dep. Paymr. Genl. Decr. 1778

We have received yours of the

of 8br. Oct. enclosing a Copy of a Resolution of Congress of the U. States of Aug. 8. 78. Shall pay strictest attention & obedience to this Resolution of Congress & to all others as far as shall be in our power, & shall always be ready to receive your Accounts & to settle them & pay the balance if any shoud appear due out of the proceed of the cargoes mentioned in the resolve as soon as we shall receive them.

(a) It is to be observed that the Commissioners had in view the settlement of Mr Rip's Acct. for the application of the £50000 received from them, & probably this was all that was laid before D. Franklin & settled by Mr. Lee & Bancroft. The balance they adjusted amounts in Livres to 71469 4/9 the advance Mr. Rip alleged to the Commissioners as I have already remarked was Livres 67307 the increase of this balance must have arisen from his charging the Lebrune & Ker accounts & the Interest which he mentions to have paid. Had he therefore furnished the use of the U. S., of which there appears no proof, the goods to have been purchased & shipped for them, & the settlement in France been a fair one, there would not have been indebted Livres 90000, with Interest for 14 years.

In relation to the affair of the Letters
we are Strangers to the nature & circum-
stances of it, we are not qualified to form any
opinion & if we were fully informed we have
no authority to give any advice concern-
ing it — if it is a case of law we can-
not with propriety interfere, unless in
cases of flagrant injustice which must
be made clearly to appear & even then
we can interfere only by application to
the Ministry — We return you all the
papers relative to this affair

Signd B. Franklin
R. Lee
J. Adams

M. Rep, Sir, Passy Dec. 29. 1778

We have received your Letter

of the 15th & 24th Dec.r with their enclosures
I once more assure you, that we have
no authority to do any thing in your
affairs, until you have settled your Ac-
counts. Whenever you shall be dis-
posed to lay your Accts before us, we
shall be ready to receive them and
settle them according to the strictest
justice, & to pay you the balance
if any. Signed as before ——

N.B. Notwithstanding the Resolve
of Congress & these Letters from the
Commrs, would not lay his Accts
before them. Messrs Lee &
Adams were independant of him,
& he knew so much of D.r Franklin's
conduct as to satisfy him, that she
unrestrained by these Gentlemen
the D.r could not refuse any settle-
ment w.ch he, M.r Hop, proposed. M.
de Beaumarchais held the same
reasons for refusing to lay his
Accounts before Messrs Lee & Adams
the Congress experienced the com-
pulsions to bring him to a settlement

Remarks

Mr Ross went to Europe as a partner of Robt Morris & the presumption is that he was partner in all Mr Morris's negociations there — Upon this supposition the order of Congress of the 1st Augt 1780 directing the Commissrs at the Court of Versailles to settle the accounts of J. Ross could not be construed to include the Accounts of Robt Morris & Jno Ross, & yet the pretended settlement included the accounts of Morris & Ross principally if not altogether & Dr Franklin must have known

this fact, because being of the same
Committee, he was one of the members
who made the contract with those Gen
tlemen. — As to the adjustment of the
Accts made by Sam.l Wharton & Jno
Bunnett, it may be observed that it
cannot have any validity, because they
do not appear to have ascertained
the Debits & Credits on a general Acct
current but have simply certified that
that there is a balance due to Jno Rose.
It is impossible to suppose that they could
strike an accurate balance, when they
could not ascertain the amount of

with Wm. J. Ross together with Robt. Morris was justly chargeable.

Messrs. Thorton & Bromfield say — they have compared the several debits made therein with the original Invoices from Merchts at Hamburg of which it appears he purchased the Cargoes &c &c

All the Invoices lodged with us are dated at Hamburg & signd at Nantes by J. Ross, so that no original Invoices appear. By the Bills of Lading all the goods are consigned to Willing Morris & Co. — The Gentlemen should therefore have certified that the balance was due from Willing, Morris & Co.

If the Goods were really & bona fide intended for the United States, &c

Mr Ross ought to have informed the Committee of — he ought to have furnished the the Committee with Invoices & bills of Loading, so that the Committee in case of arrival or capture might know where the property really was — But this fact has never been ascertained to this day — The Commissioners at the Court of Versailles were jointly not severally ordered to have J. Ross' Accts this order lay dormant till Messrs Lee & Adams, When Dr Franklin desired Mr Wharton & Dr Bancroft to adjust these Accts, but from this adjustment the Accts cannot be closed on the treasury books There is a debit against them of three or four hundred thousand dollars, but there are no documents to support any credit

do

As to the Resolves of Congress ordering credits & payments to be made to J.C. So, they took up no idea of a final adjustment; if it did, & it can clearly be proved there is an error, there can be no objection of rectifying it.

The reports of the Chambers of Ldr. & the auditor gen.l to the then board of Treasury are judicious and proper— But the report of the then Board of Treasury ~~Office~~ is void of all principle, It is more than probable that they did not send into Congress the first reports, with their own, for it seems impossible that Congress should have passed the Resolve they did, if they had attended

to these reports. — Whatever may have been J^o Reps Acct, there can be no pretence that Robt Morris & J. Reps Acct have ever been settled. It is therefore incumbent on the Board of Treasury to ascertain as far as possible the debt against these Gentlemen & to oblige them to account for the same.

That Mr Reps was a man capable of managing business, tho we are informed he had no visible property at the commencement of the late war, is evident from his great industry in Europe in writing letters to the Commissioners jointly & severally & in defending the characters & watching the interests of his Friends & probably partners.

(a) In Mr Morris's late abortive attempt to settle the Acct of Willing Morris & Co. he is stated as a Partner.

Willing Morris & Co. Nor however
very remarkable that he never
appears to have wrote a single letter
or to have given any kind of infor-
mation whatever to the Committee
for whom he pretended to be transact
business. It is further to be remark
that the merchandize shipped from
Hamburg amounted to 1263 bales, boxes
& Chests. That it appears from Mr.
Bradford that the Henrietta & Le Brun
brot to Boston 1191 bales &c. That
these vessels arrived there the beginning
of May — That Mr Morris had infor-
mation of the arrival, the Committee
none but he was pleased to commu-
nicate about the middle of June

That Mr. Morris informed them that
these goods were part private property
part the property of Pennsylvania & some
part the property of the United States.
That Mr Pringle had sent no Invoice
or information regarding them.
This is scarcely credible, when it will
undoubtedly appear that they all
came consigned to Willing, Morris & Co
That a french Capn. signs the Bills of
Loading for the whole Brune's cargo & Capn
Green was the real Capn or Master &
that he was so, Mr Pringle informs
Mr. Morris so early as they [illegible]
Mr. Morris proves no answer - That
these Goods shall never be unladed
till the Invoices arrive so as to dis-
distinguish

damaged the property.

Mr Bradford in a letter of the 20th Augt 1779 says — am still without the Invoice & goods rec.d by the Henrietta & Three Friends I need not say how little we shall be pleased to have, if orders should be given to deliver any part of them without Invoices — Feb.y 10 1779 he writes — I should be glad to receive orders to sell at Auction a parcel of damaged Duck & Osnabrigs & Diapers, which came in the Henrietta, they were damaged with salt water. I have wrote several times on this subject, but have no reply. — This does not appear to be a fact —

In April 1779 Mr Bradford makes the return which seems to be calculated to conceal the true State of these Goods — He debits the whole

number of Bales he Vends to him-
self by saying that a great part of them
are in such & such Store houses.

The Goods were undoubtedly con-
signed to Willing Morris & Co. They endeavor
to make it believed, they belong in part
to the U. S. yet it will not do to touch them
until the Invoices arrive, or rather until
length of time & a change of the members of
the Commercial Committee had buried
the whole in oblevion. This appears to have
been the case, for Mr Bradford never gives
any accurate information about them, nor
do the Committee ever appear to have thot
of the matter after the 2. June 1778. This
might have given Willing Morris & Co
opportunity to have disposed of the Goods
without any public enquiry. It must be
owned that the Commercial Committee
appear in many instances to have been

very inattentive to the interest of the U.S. — It is impossible for us to find out at present the amount of Monies with which Mr Morris & his Agents are justly chargeable. Ships & Cargoes from every part of the United States went addressed to their Correspondents. The Returns in many instances were undoubtedly disposed of & the proceeds invested in fresh Cargoes & consigned as before — these Accounts have lain so long, that it has become extremely difficult to find out how much the U.S. have been injured

End of Mr Osgood's Remarks

Dispatches of the Secy of War
Benjamin Lincoln & Wm Duer with the U.S. Balance
due & the U.S. in Lieu Stock &c. 2,471,396·5,11½
with interest from 1781.

Papers lodged with Mr. Bingham's Acct.

Letter - dated Martinique 24th. Sept.r 1776 signd Wm Bingham & Thos. Harrison - arrival of Capt.n Lockhart, his ment for £50.8.6 - inclosed Bill of Loading of Invoice for 63 Casks mulaper consigned to the Secret Comm.e or their assigns - cost £350.17.4½ - Dlocal 8/3.

31st. Dec.r 1776. Your most esteemed favors of the 20th & 24th Sept.r per Capt. Young & Stevens duly come to hand - Capt. Young sent a valuable piece to America - She had a considerable quantity of Alb, but in getting them on board unfortunately lost one half of them - shall dispose of the Tob.o per the Independance at Dol.s 53 @ 54 pr. C.t & remit Cash or obtain for a large quantity - if you will mention the precise Articles you stand in need of for four months to come I will, by the enc.e ment. I shall give proper them to be imported - number of armd vessels might be purchased here upon much better terms than in America & if the Marine Comm.e think proper to make additional to their small Cruisers - I would recommend

their giving orders for the purchase of some of them here. I should be very glad to have a discretionary power to draw on some Banker or Houses in Jamaica

Now 24th of 9br. Yours of the 21st Inst. per the Sachem Capt Robinson who arrived at Port royal the 21st inst. The Andrew Doria arrived at St Eustatia a few days before—afraid shall not be able to procure a supply of Blankets, coarse Cloths &c to go by Capt Robinson—all I could pick up embarked on board the Independance—If should not be able to procure a sufficient quantity of Wool Cross to go by the Sachem, I will immediately dispatch her with some Muskets & powder have already purchased of the latter Article 13 tons—it cost me Livr 2.7. with 10 p.c in favor on the weight—could not execute y.r order for Medicines, have sent it to Mr Morris with the directions you sent—Herein you will find Invoice & bill of Loadings for the Cargo per the Sloop Independance, consisting of those very

Articles you stand so much in need of
Coarse Cloths, Blankets, Muskets &c
25th Nov.r 1776 – enclose Acct Sales of the
Cargo pr. Brig.t Cornelia & Molly Capt. Lock
hart, net proceeds £2654,15,1½ this Curr.y
after deduct.g the Melasses returned by the
vessel & the money advanced Capt.n
Lockhart we have p.d the remaind.r
of the Cargo to Mr. Bingham agreable
to your orders, w.h you will find to be
£2234,0,4½ – Wm. Bingham R. Harrison
Dec.r 6. 1776 enclosed Invoice & Bill of
loading for sundry Merchendizes shipp.d
on board the Sachem, & D.o p.r the Morris.
you will find Gentl.n I have implicitly
followed your Instructions – & pleas.d
the credit of the U. S. pretty freely.
The Sachem was carried so little

that I was under the necessity of purchasing a Bermudian Sloop on wch I have embarked a quantity of powder the parcel I alluded to in a former letter some Arms &c— She cost high— In a short time considerable importations are expected from France to supply our demands.— Capt Young's receit for ~~2000~~ 900 Dlls & also copy of the Disbursemts of Sloop Independence likewise Capt Robinsons receit for what I advanced him. The Disbursemts on the Independance will nearly equal her cargo.— have drawn at sight on the Secret Comtee of Correspondence in yr favor 100 Dlls— on the Marine Comtee in yr favor 2205 Dlls for amt of what I have furnished the two Sloops with. Jan 10th 1777

11

1777 – have received y.r favor of the 9th Nov.r informing me of your having taken a Brig.t in a cargoe of ~~Barbadoes~~ 900 bbls flour, 240 hhds tobacco for the brig Cornelia & Molly a Brig.t vessel has arrived & I shall dispose of the Cargo to the best advantage. I have disposed of the tob.o at 75 th p.r c.t. I recommend your future speculations to be almost confined to it. You will find a set of exchange of this date in your favor, upon the marine Comm.e for £20/3 being the amount of the disbursements on the Hoop Jackam & Independance added to what I have already drawn for on the same Acc.t likewise y.r Acc.t curr.t balance in my favor Lio.s 211,948,0,1. Inclosed is an acc.t of disbursem.ts on sloop Morris w.h 9

corne & Molly

Jackam expenses & Independ.e

carried to your debit. Salvo herewith
of the Cargo of the Independance
Jan.y 26. 1777. A few days ago arrived here
the Ship Betsy prize, w.ch was bound to
Bordeaux, but having sprung a leak was
obliged to bear away for these places
The vessel & Cargo belong to the Contin.t
loaded with Masts, Staves, Plank &c.
She has come to a very good market
& I think it a very lucky circum-
stance She put in here, as her Cargo
will sell for more than at Bordeaux.
Mr. Langdon orders to sell the vessel
She is very old — cost £1000 last cruize
vessels from the Eastw.d cant be better
employed, than in bringing Masts &
Spars here. He will sell the Cargo Credit

The Comte. Dr Feby 1777 inclosed you will
find a Bill of Loading for 1053 lbs powder, being
part of a considerable quantity, say 2000 Bills
forwarded by order of Mr Deane on Act of the
U. S. I may expect in a short time to re-
ceive the same quantity on same Act.
as Mr Deane advises me of his having
purchased two hundred tons. The frequent
Mis takes which this enormous the charge of re-
ceiving storing, re shipping, Duties &c will amt.
to upwards of 12,000 ℔ will be impossible for
me to discharge, without I have speedy re-
mittances. The balance of the Acct. Court
lately drawn with is upwards of 211000 ℔ & I have
lately been under the necessity of converting
to the purpose of discharging debts contracted
on your Acct. Commission with offices be-
longing to Mrs Willing Morris & Co. am^t
to £100000 When I have finished the sales of
the 1000 Bills superfine flower p^r the Ship Betsey
(as with Raydesbaumont, who was paid out of the
publick money 180,000 ℔ tournois Feby 17. 1777 See
Grand's Acct. Stated by Mr Barklay.

on the barge for the Cornelia & Molly joined by the Betsey Frigate. Shall transmit you the Tobacco

N.B. There is a bill of lading inclosed Letter sig.d Wm Lovekhart 24 July 1777. consequently to the last Comm.d 150 Hhds powder they to have freight 25/ p.r Hhd. endorsed by Wm Morris — Wm Bingham with bill of lading for 150 Hhds of the ships Seines powder he sent p.r the Cornelia & Molly Capt. Lockhart Dis taken — but the Ship Seine had not then arrived —

March 12 1777 complaints made for want of Provisions — I was obliged to give my obligation to discharge on Acct. of the inhabitants, but explained to the Gentlemen of the State of Maryland the nature of the Service entirely explained to the Committee of Congress. in a letter under date of 6th Dec.r last amount. to more than 30 000 lb. — A large ship from Philadelphia has lately arrived here, with Tob.o which will leave (a) 150 ℔ p.r Hhd profit on the Sales Tob.o is by far the best article to be shipped from this market.

(a) not two months before Wm Bingham had sold the public tobacco for 75 ℔ p.r Hhd. from which there were the deduct see his Let.r Jan.y 17. 1777.

March 23. 1777 A Frigt. Ship called the Seine
Seine Capt. Mason arrivd here the 18th. inst. after a first
Esp attempt to reach the Continent. She was
forwarded by M. Hortalez & Cie. Beaumarchais
the U.S. with a large quantity of Arms, Ammunition
camp Equipage &c. An Acct. of her cargo I have
herewith the honor of transmitting to you. As
these Articles are of considerable value, & such
as the Continent has a most pressing occa-
sion for, I think it by no means advi-
sable to risque the whole of them by this
single opportunity, for which reason I shall
withdraw by far the greater part of them,
which I shall reserve for some of the Continental
ports, that I am informd may soon be
expected out here. This step is conformable to the orders rec'd. from the Comm.
of Sec. Corr. signify'd to me in their
Lett. dated 21. Sept. I shall then forward
this vessel to the place of destination
which is Boston. I shall procure for her
a skilful Pilot well acquainted w. the Coast

I have already shipped on board an armed vessel, belonging to the State of Massachusetts Bay 25 Cases of muskets which I have addressed to the Council of Safety requesting they will give you immediate notice of their arrival – I should think it preferable to dispatch this vessel for Virginia or Maryd. as she might then bring back a return cargo of valuable commodities, whereas at Boston their exports are of little consideration – but as I am not acquainted with the tenor of the Charter party I cannot presume to do it.

In the above letter is inclosed the following Acct. of the Cargo of the Ship Seine

317 Cases muskets – 15 Bales tent Duck & cloth – 2 Bls flints – 2 Do musk. Screws – 100 hand spikes for cannon – 359 bombs – 2 mortars – 6 Rammers & Sponges for cannon – 1000 match rope – 1 anvil – 1 Do – 600 lb. powd. 16 Cases musket balls – 1 Do Rammers & Sponges 20 Cases tin – 43,600 flints for muskets. –

April 6th 1777 enters Loyalty with Mr Diaz's proposed Contract — Fr. Ship Capt. Marin in the Seine sailed yesterday — Capt. Young arrived to day.

April 6. 1777. The presents will be conveyed to you by the Ship Seine — I have taken out offers — 217 Casks Muskets & 100 bales Tents &c which I shall forward by the first opportunity — I have procured such papers for this Ship, that I think it will be impossible for any british ship to make prize of her — I have had so much interest with Mr Gerard as to obtain a certificate from him, that upon finding this Ship had more arms, ammunition &c on board than what this Colony had a demand for, & touching the Island of Miquelon — was in a defenceless State — he had not power, to forward her here with the remainder of the Cargo. He has accordingly

wrote the Govr a letter suitable to the occasion in which he has shown a masterly & perverse dissimulation.

Mr Davis, an American gentleman, who served in the British Troops, arrived here in this ship. He is recommended in the strongest terms in a letter to the Comr of the District where he may arrive — The Gentleman who comes out passenger Mr Davis is recommended to Congress by the Commissioners here, which sanction no doubt will obtain for him all [redacted] friendly assistance on your part — I only mention this circumstance as preparatory to informing you of my having been under the disagreeable necessity of advancing this Gentleman a considerable sum of money — He entered too deeply into play at which he had an unlucky run, & his considerable expenses unknown to me

which

which could have induced me to make so disagreeable an application. I was induced to advance him this sum of money for several reasons, to save his credit with Rives at Clarke & to enable him to continue his rout in the vessel he came in — Besides I had introduced him to Mr Lyon as an american Officer & I should have been sorry that any reflection should have been thrown on his character for not paying his debts. You may judge of the inconvenience of making this advance how exceedingly disagreeable it must have been especially as it obliged me to borrow the money — Mr Davis has assured me as a Gentlemen, upon his word of honor that he has a considerable sum of mine in Mr Dean's hands & that he will immediately upon his arrival below the Rock with your enclosed you will please to send his receipt for $360.33, pay-

payable to you or your order. I have
advanced Capt. Mairs for the distressed
ofhis vessel Livr. 2065,16,6. for w. he has
given me his note payable to you or M. Deane.
April — no date — Of past 26th rec'd by Capt
Young duly came to hand enclosing In-
voice & Bill of Loading for 3 Casks Mdgo
@ 35 Bls superfine flour. I have shipped on
board the Sloop Independance 11 Bales tents
& 31 Cases Muskets being part of the Cargo
of the Ship Seine — She was taken at 20 L.
in the morn.g after her departure from
this Dominica — Seem impute it to
nothing but the improvidence of the
Captain who kept a fire burning in his
Caboose by the light of which the vessel
was discovered & pursued. Besides the vessel
that took her, the Seaford frigate — 20 guns
dull Sailer. & She was not seen till the two

was just on board of them, so that there
would have been a bad look-out
upon deck. The Capt. had the presence
of mind to destroy all the papers that
related to his voyage to Boston & only pre-
served those w.h related to his destination
to Miquelon— But the Pilot did not
act in the same cautious manner, al-
tho he was recommended to me as a very
prudent discreet man. He omitted to
throw overboard some very essential
papers that related to his voyage to Bos-
ton. The total subjection of America could
not be attended with more exquisite mark
of joy than the capture of this prize.

The Spirit of the Gentleman is never
wanting on such occasions. The hour
is approved he will lay claim to her in the

name of the King his master, to whom
the cargo belonged according to the Clear-
ances. Under every presumptive proof
appearing strongly to the contrary, will not
succeed with success — Mr Davis, whose
on the ship, has met with the most
scandalous Treatment by
from the Pres.t of Dominica. He behaved
like a man of Spirit & an American. He
gave some very spirited answers to some
improper questions that were put to him
upon w.ch he was immediately ordered to
goal where confined in an apartment
remote from negroes & Dogs. Told in Dis-
dain, That any other place of confinement
was too good for him — There he must
have continued to languish if it had not
been for the interposition of some of the
Merchts

Merch.ts the was taken out of this terri-
ble place, only to change it to a milder
Imprisonment being now confined in the
fort, he is ignorant of his crime.
May 12. 1777. The Ship Seine has been
condemnd. The answer the Gov.r obtained from the Gov.r of Dominica was
that the affair did not come
under his cognizance. Their heard
that the ship called the Colbert, loaded
on Acc.t of Congress at Havre de Grace
with Arms, Ammunit.n &c. touch'd
Gouda Loupe I wish She had called
here, as the Gov.r has promisd me that
upon all such occasions he will give
orders for a frigate to convoy them. In
deed it was not without consulting him

& the Intendant that I changed the Ship's name
~~cargo~~ Clearance, as I was convinced they
would stand him in no stead when she
arrived on the coast of America. — I was
induced to give the pilot who entered on
board this ship an order on the council
of Depety in any part he might enter, from
this consideration — that several persons
who had engaged in the same way after
being paid their stipulated sums had
entered on board the Privateers where ne
ver heard of afterwards. And as the Capt.
told me such a man was absolutely ne
cessary for facilitating his voyage ~~&c~~
The best way of retaining him would be to
secure to him the payment of his money
in America after he had performed his
contract — my positive orders & his own
personal safety pointed out to him the nec-

necessity of destroying their papers — the
consideration that led him to keep it I
cannot account for — Every circumstance
operated against the vessel, more especially
one which no less surprises them affects me
which is that Mr Davis, who behaved with
such a manly fortitude upon his being
first made prisoner, has from the sug
gestions of fear or some other unworthy
motive, laid open the history of his
voyage as far as he has come to his
knowledge — I have herewith the honor
to enclose you a copy of his examin
ation from whence you will observe that he af
terwards took the oath of allegiance
& fidelity to his britannic majesty
He has since escaped from Dominica
& will shortly take his passage for Amer.
I have shipped the greatest part of

the Indigo I recd. to France. The Schooner Lively Capt. Stevens has arrived here from Charleston by which I recd. yesterday 22 Nov. She has brot 6 Bls rice & 10 Casks Indigo. Invoice of which amounts to £10,604,6,1 Curr. money. Sloop Hornet, Capt. Nicholson is lost. As I have a quantity of Arms, bales of camp equipage &c in store belonging to the Government, I wish you would send out some vessels to receive them. — I herewith send your Acct. curt. balance in my favr. Dec. 25 £4,316,8,8. So soon as the sales of Indigo per the Independence & of Rice & Indigo per Lewis are furnished I shall give your Acct. credit for the proceeds. — I herewith transmit you Acct. sales of flour per the Betsey & Tobacco & flour per Cornelia Nelly in which latter you are particularly interested on Acct. of the charges in receiving & shipping 2000 Bls powder which you will perceive are very considerable

Lost

Bls 2000 powr.

VI.

Lest you should imagine the charge of 6d
p.r Bill for the expence of Stores &c is extra
vagant, I must inform you that Lut. 3, 15, is
p.d for every Bill that enters the Magazine with
out any other charge I have now 300
Bills forwd. still remain.g w.ch I shall ship
by some safe opportunity — You will
find herewith Mr Davis's recpt for mo
ney advanced him on acct. of his expences
since he has been made prisoner at
Dominica — there are sundry other
accts to come in agst. him w.ch I shall
not be able to transmit you by this
opportunity. His extravagances in
this place, w.d be unbecoming if he could
procure money — He is a man of a very
unsteady & volatile disposition. (a)

(a) Mr Bingham is not so easily gulld
out of his orders, I presume, as he pretends to
have been out of the public money. To pay
this Sherpers Bills in Dominica after
had betrayd the expedition the Capr of all
grance & the King of England was to reward
his treachery & confirm his information
upon w.ch the expedition Corzo was condemnd as
a smuggler & executed. All this expence & folly
Mr Bingham protrays by his having introduced
this adventurer to Prevost as an American of
ficer w.ch he knew he was not. A.L.

May 23. 1777. The Seaflower down, Capt Stevens saild the — instant for Charleston on board wch vessel I have shipp'd 20 Cases Merchandize as p. Bill loading enclosed. being part of the Seamew Cargo, wch was consigned to Messrs Clarkson & Dorsius The Indigo shipped on this vessel exclusively belongs to the Sachem Capt. Robinson has not been heard since he saild the Capes of Delaware — In the Sales wch I transmitted you of the Brig Cornelia & Molly's Cargo, there was an omission of the freight wch was £600 P.C. y.r 3. is £1,800.

June 24th 1777. In the Acct of expences & charges, (wch I enclose) of receiving and shipping 2000 lbs Pound. The freight is put down, by mistake, at dol.s 35000 Pound 2000 lbs I settled it a few days ago & find it to be Lev.s 37,500 I have debited you on Acct 2500 lbs in conformity — the rest shall be paid for Remit.

Aug.st 6. 1777. A french vessel called the Robuste Capt.n Riviere had been lately cast away on the southern most part of Antigua, in w.ch vessel I had shipped a considerable parcel of the Indigo belong.g to the publick being the whole quantity I received by the Lewis Capt.n Stevens & 5 hhds of what remained that came by the Independence. I had given orders for insurance for 5000.£ at liv: 5 10 but when forth but there was on board 5716.lbs part of wch belongs to Capt.n Young & Stevens & a small parcel was on public Acc.t However even at the Insurance I have ordered it will averege more than I sued procure for it here.— I have received from S. Cathcart a quantity of Indigo lately sent from Granada

Pond.s 2000 13 lb

la ct.

from Mr. P. Morris had given him orders to ship to my address. The enclosed letter from Mr. Cathcart will

will hand you herewith the letters we mentioned
Letters on other business for the Public which must
be very much wanted. I expect you will receive and
some contents of which to receive them.
Augst 10th By the Mary Catharine a brig from
Dienkirk loaded with Ammunition &c &c which
arrived here a few days ago with the 16th Regt
Hostilities desires me to receive & send a letter
from Mr Hodge in behalf of the Commissy
recommends me to forward to the Contr
by different opportunities - I must settle the
freight or purchase agreed for this purpose
the former I believe to impracticable
& the latter best suits with the low con-
dition of our funds. I shall be under
the necessity of advancing. The amount
of the freight from Europe is very
considerable. As the State of Georgia
seems to have a pressing demand
for Arms & Ammunition &c. I have
them

VII

it in consideration to purchase a Bermuda Sloop & despatch her to Savannah with some powder & muskets, addressed to the Comm.t Offr there — reasons for the Enterprize wants those Articles & that returns may be made here from thence — The Genl. has promised him a frigate to convoy the vessels clear of the Islands — I had shipped in a Virg.a pilot boat a few days since the cases of arms part of the Deane's cargo. The vessel was cleared out ready to sail, when ten Brit.h prisoners that had been landed on this Island went on board at midnight well armed, silenced all the people & carried her off in a hostile manner — the hopes of recovery —

Sept.r 1. 1777. You will find Bill of Lading of sundry Med.e articles shipped on board an armed Virg.a pilot boat, to the address of the Comm.t Offr of the State of Maryl.d They are

part of Mr. Cathcart's
Sept. 27th 1777. I have shipped on board the
Sea flower, bound to Salem, 80 Casks Nails
Nuts, Otter Belts tents &c as p. bill of Load &
I herein Enclose. Have consigned them
to Capt. Jo. Bradford — I likewise enclose
Bill Loading for sundry Ammun. &c
for the Sloop Washington being part of
the Cargo recd by the Mary Capt Rennie
& Bill of Loading for 80 Cases Ammn. p.
the Black Joke, part of the unfortunate
Lewis's Cargo — both of these are arrd
Bermudian Sloops — The former I
have purchased on Acct of Congress for
350 hard Dollars. I have thot proper to di
rect the latter to Send her to New Hampshire.
The other will sail for Baltimore
addressed to Mr Lee. — Oct. 16. 1777 Rupes
for Remittances — hears that the Com-
missioners in Europe had negotiated

a large loan - wishes for permission to draw on them - encloses an Acct. of the first cost of the Sloop Washington except Carpenters bills. —— Decr. 6th. 1777 Encloses bill of lording for sundry Medes shipped on board the Schooner Industry Capt. Morrison. I have consigned them to the Comtee. Agt. at Edenton who I desired to give you immediate notice of her arrival — I have shipped on board the Brig Mary (a Prize) Cargo on board the Irish Privateer, Capt. Lamb, bound to New London to the address of Nath. Shaw I have shipped on board the Thane Capt. I have bound to N. Carolina or any other port in the U. S. 15 bales of Cloth & Serets, & 15 Cases of Arms, being part of the Ship Seine's cargo. Bills of Lading for each of which you will find enclosed

I have addressed this last parcel to the
enclosed Agt. at whose Ile arrived
Decr 28th The Brig Jemmy Capn Jarvis
has arrived, loaded with 53 Hhds tobo
some Rustic & Rimmels on Acct of the U. S.
She was bound to Nantes, but after
meeting with bad weather wch did her con
siderable damage, She was forced to bear
away for the Island in distress. It was
a lucky circumstance that She arrivd
in safety as She was but weakly manned
the Capn had been deprived of his senses
during the whole voyage. I have of her
cargo except 2 Hhds damaged at 100 Livs 17/6
which is the greatest price ever obtaind here
for this Article. I shall retain the nett
proceeds

proceeds of the cargo in my hands subject to ~~your~~ orders — As this vessel is a very fast sailing Bermudian, Brig & as I have shipped on board her 12 or more pieces of the heaviest Ordnance also 20 bales of Tents & Cartouch Box's some of which contain 1064 being part of a quantity I had given encouragement to some Merch^{ts} to import upon my arrival here having had orders from the Comm^{r} of Secret Correspondence to purchase to the Stand of Arms & Ord^{ce} but a small part of them in this place & those enormously dear, I thot it wo be most advisable to procure an immediate importat^{n} from France being the surest & speediest method of obtaining such an essential Article

I accordingly applied to an established house
in this place, & gave them the greatest en-
couragem.t They accordingly effected it.
The want of sufficient funds & the arriv.
of the ship Seine out of a.c I had taken up-
ward of 300 cases prevented me from pay.g
any attention to them — But as the Arms
have been laying a considerable time
in store the Importers have become
very importunate on the subject. Did
they demand any unreasonable Di-
vidend, on the cost of these Arms, I shou.d
always them declined the purchase — but on
the contrary they are very moderate
in their price, they have shewn me
the original Invoice & find they will
gain very little on their speculation.
Invoices & bills of lading are enclosed

I have contracted for them at 6 months
credit the Arms are excellent the
Powder consists of about 5000 lbs
I cannot conceive Congress have
any Supplies demands for them I shall
endeavor to procure a sale for the
remainder My Letters to Mr Comm.
of Secret Corr.ce Sept.r 24. 1776, & 13 Oct.r 1777
make mention of this arrangem.t
Jan.y 14. 1778 enclosed you will
find copy of your Acct. Curt. Balce
in my favor 343,105,1,1. Dollars.
I have not heard to y.r Acct. the
sales of the Indigo by the Betsey Capt.
Stevens — the sales of December by the

Rodney frigate Capt. Palmer, nor of the Tobacco he received p. the brig Tammany Capt. Jarvis, these Sales not being completed — Neither have I debited this Acct with Commiss. & Charges as recd to forward. The Ship Scines Cargo & the Brig Mary & Maria's not known. The Acct. of the respective Invoices — You will find a sett of Exchange of this date on the Comm. of J. C. for 2885 ₤ Sodds mak. Dlrs. 23554.99. & another sett on the Comm. of the Navy Board for 1003 40 Smith Dlrs. 8279.2.3. which you will please to pay to my credit — brig Tammany's disbursements inclosed — I have sent Duplicates of Bill of Lading to Hews & Smith in order that they may settle with the Owners for the Amount. Inclosed bill of Loading for 29 bales of Tents

and

IX

and Cloths wch I pr Note herewith
enclosed you will find compleat the
number I had taken out of the Ships
Stores — N B - This note does not appear.

The 6th of Jany 1779. a letter addressed to the
Secret Comm.e of Congress, wch had ceased
to exist for a long time — complains
much of his embarrassed situation
for want of remittances — From
the last date to the 27th Jan.y 1779
there are no Letters on file from
Mr Bingham

Jan.y 27th 1779 — addressed to the Sec: Comm.e
I herewith enclose you Acc.t Curr.t
balance in my favor. 247,068,7,3 pr
I shall not be able to compleat
the charges on forwarding the Ships

Seines cargo. The Navy & Marines until I know the amount of their respective Invoices. Neat proceeds of the Betsey Frigates Cargo. 878 54.3.4. A considerable part of this is outstand.g & I am afraid it will not easily be recovered. I was induced to give credit to Mr. Payen for so large a sum as appears ag.st him from the consideration of the Articles he stands indebted for, which was in fitting out Privateers, to cruize ag.st the Enemies of the U.S. As the respective Acc.ts of the diff.t Committees are posted to your debet, I have drawn in your favor on the Hon.ble Navy board for Liv: 1144,638,0.11. & on the Com.rs for foreign Affairs for D.rs 19,267,16.1 being the balance of their Acc.ts now transmitted them — Inclosed are Acc.t Sales of the several prizes sent in here by the continental Cutter Revenge, for the net proceeds of w.ch I have credited your Acc.t — I have shipped on board the Catharine, one Chest tea — A part of the Cargo of one of the prizes was sold for Bills of Exchange on America one of w.ch you will find inclosed

fitting out Privateers

I have shipped on board the Revenge 50 Cases of Muskets being part of the purchase I made for part payment of the balance of this Acct. I shall appropriate the proceeds of 1000 Bills Sloper & Shipsheriff sent with the Fort by an american privateer. The vessel it was taken in being danish & the cargo appearing to be portugeese property. I have forwarded to the Honble Comte. of foreign affairs, copies of the papers found on board, who I am of opinion will order the Amt. to be paid in Europe to the respective Owners. - The freight charges & damages I shall settle with the Danish Capn. - the rest of this letter for fees for Remittances - & Bills on Europe.

April 9th 1779 Je soussigné Agent des Etats Unis de l'Amerique dans les Isles françaises m'oblige envers Mr. de Mont deron faisant les fonctions de l'Intendant

a la Martinique, de lui realiser en espece sur le produit de premiers envois aux Isles du vent, pour le Congrès la somme de cent soixante quatre mille livres argent des Isles montant de ma lettre de Echange tirée le 13 d'Avril sur MM. Franklin & Hewes pour le comp. des Etats Unis, laquelle dite lettre d'Echange, au moyen de la remettant en espece a la Martinique de la somme susdite deviendra nulle & de nul effet.

Sign. Wm Bingham

Le dit engagement j'ai constaté tant, en mon nom, que celui du Congrès pour le term de six mois a compter de ce jour.

Feb. 7 10 R. The armed Brig Gen. Gates commanded by Capt. Walters has arrived here to carry dispatches. Several more expected

expected here — This letter is a Dupl
to the Navy board — states the difficulties
he labours under by reason of the great
balance due him from Comd. Comt.
that without remittances he cannot
make the necessary disbursements
on the ships, & he shall probably
have no other business to attend
to in future — July 7. 1779. Bill dy
to the Navy board, draws on them
in favor of the Comd. Comt. for 1524
Dlls. being the amount of my Acct.
exd. by sd Honble board for disbursmts
on continental vessels, hospital
Accounts & gaol fees, & impressed seamen
&c. — Also one other Lett. of this date
in favor of the Comd. Comt. 429-50 Dlls
being amount of interest accd. due
from Marine Comt. on Acct. as herewith

exhibited — July 16th 1779 not adopted
I duly received yours of the 11th ult. for Lon-
tenant Jachet Eagle who arrived here
the — instant — enclosed is a copy of my last
Acct Curt balance in my favor £73,150,17,6
as well as Sales of a large of flour, lost into this
port by an american Cutter which proved to be
neutral property — The disbursements on y.
vessel & Acct curt of this concern the Balce
& which is passed to your Acct — You will like-
wise find your interest Acct till 1. Feb.y
1779. I have drawn on y.r fact two sepa
rate sets of Exchange on the Comm.r for for-
eign affairs for Lev.r 10355,13,4. all
which I request you will give me credit
for. The amount of these bills, inclosed
to y.r Acct in conformity to the mode
I was directed to proceed in which was to
balance every public Acct by bringing
them respectively into that of the Comm.r

Comm.r whom I give credit for all Remittances or Monies received. — In consequence
R. Morris to sue his Debtors
of your referring the settlem.t of my Accts
to Rob.t Morris, who, as you observe,
from his having undertaken the im-
mediate managem.t of them is better
acquainted with the transactions I
have wrote to that Gentleman on the
subject — I have collected his opin.s
twice on this occasion. I therefore
request that you will deliver to him
the Acc.t Curr.t I have from time to
time transmitted the Comm.r the
settlem.t of w.ch I am the more inclind
to wish speedily arrangd as urgent
reasons induce me to desire permission
to return to the Cont.t — the next packet to sail for France.

July 10th 1779 — Short letter addressed to the Comd. Comd. — July 23 1779 To the same — cannot procure any powder — dispatch the Ship Capt. Cushmeau to St. Eustatia — I have shipped by her 76 Lasts Musquets — If Carson & Governeur can procure the powder to ship it is preferme to the Arms.

6th Sept. 1779 — As Attorney in fact to Mr. Bingham I am authorized & particularly requested most respectfully to lay before you the very great difficulty that Gentleman labors under, from a want of the settlement of his public Acct. & the remittance of a considerable balance due to him from the U. S. for monies advanced & debts contracted for the public service — I have still for this reason to solicit your kind attention to my Brother in laws situation, as I am positively informed, that a Bill he drew

13th

XI.

13th April last for 10000 liv. on Dr Franklin at Paris or will be returnd upon his hands for non payment &c — addressd to Congress — John Benezet

Referrd to the Comte of Comte who are directed to take Order thereon Sept. 8. 1779.

Dec. 9. 1779 I duely informd you by Lett. under date 13. April. that I had taken liberty of passing my drafts on Dr Franklin for Liv: 10000 tournois as I was under the necessity of doing in order to procure funds for the payt. of disbursements on continent. expects & the other various & incidental charges of this department. I have not as yet heard whether my drafts were honord, altho I am inclind to believe it was refusd acceptance, as the Intend. on the arrival of a fleet this day from home, has applyd to me for my promissory note for that Sum propos. as the same time to return me my Bills

of Exchange thes I have drawn in favor of the Treasurer of Trinity. I could not with propriety refuse his request & have accordingly given him a Note of Hand copy of w.h is enclosed. I am unhappy to find that I am deprived of any answers to the numerous letters, I have wrote - This letter has no address

Read in Congress Nov: 24. 1779 Referred to the Comm.te of Commerce

Nov: 6th 1779. Two Brigs have arrived from Charlestown dispatched by Col. Livingston loaded with Rice on acct. of the U. S. - The terms of freight are exceedingly disadvantageous one half of the net proceeds being by Charter party allotted to that purpose. I procured an excellent price for those Articles & have invested the net proceeds in such Articles as the Dep.t informs the Army to the Southward stood in great need of. The proceeds

of the other shall be placed to the credit of your Acct.— The Letter proper for Remittances, points out various modes, but credits on Bronce the best.

Decr. 16. 1779 John Benezet to Congress

That he had petitioned Congress, who referred that Petition to the Comm. of Commce. That some months have elapsed without the Honble Gentlemen's having been able to make any remittances. That Mr Berg heer's affairs become daily more critical — That he understands Congress are about to draw Bills on Spain & Holland — That Congress will be pleased to order part of those Bills to be drawn in favr of Mr Berg heer — Decr. 16 — Read the same day & referred to the Comm. of Commerce

Feb. 24. 1780. John Benezet to Congress

To grant Mr Berghaer a Passport

promptly to return to Ireland where he may endeavor to effect that in person & his frequent letters, & my several Memories & constant applications have in vain attempted to bring about. His credit in the Island where he resides is entirely at an end his property on some parts of the Continent sequestrated under attachments & notwithstanding the measure Congress went into 30th Nov. last. His Excellency the President's letter to the Legislature of the State of Massachusetts not having answered the expectations of his friends. Mr Bingham writes me under date 31. Nov. last that Congress then owed him a balance of 350000 ℔ & that for Six months past he had been without any letters or answers whatever from your Commd. his affairs are altogether desperate & his situation truly lamentable. May 7th

XII.

May 7th 1790— Having done myself the honor of paying my personal respects to you immediately on my arrival at Philadelphia & you some public dispatches I did not conceive it necessary to give more official notice of it to Congress Should I have been mistaken I hope Congress will pardon the neglect but attribute it to an entire ignorance of the requisite formalities & not to the most distant want of respect to that august Body.— I beg leave to request that you would inform them that I am ready to render an acct of my Agency during my residence in the W. Indies & to give every necessary information relative to the affairs of the department that has been committed to my care.

Copy of Mr. Bingham's last Acct. gen.

Dr Side of the said gen. Acct. is as follows

1779 July 7th. To balance due on former Acct. £257,119,14.

To a case quantity 1200 Bayos. @ 1.15.2100.
Do quan. 180. Do at 2/10 ——— 450
2550

(a) Commn. @ 5 pr Ct. ——— 127,10. 2677,10

Cash for repair. Bayonets & Muskets ——— 99
P. Negroe hire for carrying Cases to Seaside ——— 97
Do a Gabar to embark Do ——— 145. ——— 341.10

Error in the Article of abatement on
Muskets in a former Acct. ——— 6902
Commn. ——— 349.2. 7331.2

Nov: 3
× Commn. on pay. half the Amt.
of the Brig Neptune's Cargo to the
order of the Owners ——— 580.7.1

× Cash to M. de la Plaigne employd by
Georgia ——— 2000
× Commission ——— 100 2100 ———

P. for 4 water [illegible] ——— 130 ———

The Articles marked × seem to me to have
no relation to the U.S. A. Lee

(a) Either these are parcel of the Arms purchased by Richard
to the U.S. or a part of some Cargo delivered to them to
forward — in either case they are doubly charg.

1780 Jan.y 10th

Additional disbursmts on the Ship Deane ---- 77.19.3

To M. Delahorme for 3 mth Int.t on 2000 ---- 560,

To Amt of set of Exchange on D.r Franklin
in favor of M.r St James dated 13 April
1779 on.h the Comm.r had credit for &
were returned without being paid .. 150,000. —

March 29 Comm.r of Ter: Off.s balance of their Acc.t 16998.11.8

Marine Comm.t Do Do ---- 348,431. 4. 5

1780 May 1.st To my Salary from 1.st June
1776 to 1.st may 1780. 3 y.rs 11 mth.s at £300 St.g
p.r Ann: is £1125 ---- 41,128.a.9

To Bal.ce of Comm.t Comm.rs Interest Acc.t
to this day ---- 21.500.10.9

D.o of Marine Comm.t ---- 17,681, 6.9

1781. Interest on 761,662,3,5
from Aug.st 15.th 1780 to Jan.y 30th
1781, is 5 mth.s & 15 days a 6 p.r C.t .. 20,945. 13.0

Commiss.n & Charges on receiving &
forwarding the Ship Sean's cargo amount-
ing to Liv.s tour.nois 687,315-is in
Mark.t Curt.t Liv.s 1,031,272,10 a 5 p.r C.t 51,563, 12.0

To Comm.ns & Charg.s on recover.y & forward.g the Ship Mary Catharine's Cargo amount.g as per Invoice Liv.s Tournois 140,045 is Mark.e Liv.s 222,112. at 5 p.r C.t 11,105,12,0

To Parsons Alston & Co for the a.m.t of their Acc.t of Monies advanced for the use of the U. S. on the requisit.n of Gov.r Rutledge 26,753,2,7

May 30.th To Interest on 632,604,0,6, from Jan.y 30 to May 30, is 4 M.s 26 d.s & 6 p.r C.t 9409,0,0

986,459.15.6.

The Credit side is as follows

1779 July 24.th By 25 Off.rs fusils charg.d in a former Acc.t more than were sh.d at 5 Liv.s 1350

Corny ——— 62.10 ..... 1412.10.0

Oct.r 26.th By 1/2 Amt of net proceeds of a Cargo of Rice recd from A. Lexington pr Brig Neptune Capt.n Nelmes the whole being as pr Acc.t Sales herewith receivd 46428,10, The half is 23214,5,0

Feb.y 1.st 1781 By bills of Exchange on Madrid for 53290 Dlls at 6 Liv.s 319740,0,0

Carried

* The mark.t Price being 60 p.r C.t below the Tournois reduces the dollar to 4 Liv. Tourn.s Its just value is 5.6 Sols Tourn.s so that M.r Bingham gains & the public loses 66612.3/4. So it is with the Interest on the Sums credited as he ought to have allowed as he charges it on the Debit as above This would be as follows Dr 1412.10 Cr 154 Cr 23214.5. Dr 269 Cr 66612 3/4 Dr 1414 making Cr 27 wch with 66612.3/4 is 68449 3/4 which charge in these three Items

(111

Balance ——————— Sic: 642,093.0.6

Per: Recap: Philadelphia. May 30. 1791

Signed Wm Bingham

On the back is endorsed Balc 642,093,0,6
Error in Br. on 632,604. ——————— 3136-0
645,256,0,6.

Admiralty Office 16th Feb.y 1780.

The Board, to whom was referred Mr. Bingham's letter of the 25 Dec.r beg leave to report.

That in order to furnish Mr. Bingham with a fund necessary for refitting the frigate Confederacy & to extricate herein part from his present embarrassments the Commercial Com.rs be directed to order that the Bale of Sixty eight thousand, seven hundred & 7/8.ths 3,10, due the U. S. in the hands of Bernard Lavaud Merch.t Cape Francois be p.d to the order of Wm. Bingham Esq.r also to ship for Martinique a limited quantity of provisions or treasury bills of Exchange upon the Agents in Europe but from the terms of Mr. Binghams letter, the board conceive that the Bills if negotiable will be at a large discount. They further beg leave to inform Congress

that by yesterdays post their Agent
at Portsmouth N. H. was directed to ship
a quantity of Masts & Spars suitable for the
Confederacy but known not whether
he has a ship sufficient for that
purpose.

not Signd

The following is without date
or signature — The Commercial
Committee report on Mr. Binghams
Acct. That having examined the Sd
Account, so far as it comprehends
transactions merely commercial they
find a Balance due to him thereon
of five hundred & seven thousand, Six
hundred & forty one Livres Martinique
That the Treasury Board pay
to the credit of Mr. Bingham Esqr.
Livres Martinique

a Balance due to him from the U. S.
on Acct of Comm.l transactions in the
French W. Indies to bear an Interest
of 6 pr Ct till paid — That with respect
to certain other charges of Salary & Expen
ces exhibited in s.d Acct by Mr Bing-
ham as the Political Agent of Congress
in the french W. Indies the Comptr not
being competent Judges thereof, they are
submitted to Congress, together with a
resolution to be adopted in case Congress
should be of opinion the s.d Charges are
justly founded — That the Treasury
Board keep to the further credit of Mr
Bingham 110,324 Liv.s Martinique due
to him as the political Agt of the U. S.
in the french W. Indies.

Treasury Office June 15 1781.
In pursuance of an Act of Congress dated

XIV.

The 14. inst.[o] Ordered that the Auditor gen.[l] pass to the credit of W.[m] Bingham the Sum of 507,641. livres Martinique the balance due him from the U. S. on Acc.[t] of commercial transactions in the french W. Indies [redacted]. This balance to bear an Interest of 6 p.[r] C.[t] p.[r] An: until paid

Extract from the Minutes J. L. Clarkson Sec.[y]

Treasury Office Oct.[r] 20.[th] 1780 Ordered that the Auditor Genl. debit W.[m] Bingham Esq.[r] with 31000 Bills of Exchange on M.[r] Jay &c.

In the Minute Book of the Comm.[d] Committee is the following Entry —

May, 1781 — Reported to, & passed in Congress,

* There is no such Act on the printed Journals of Congress.

an order to the Treasury Board to pay
to the credit of Will.m Bingham

Livres of Martinique being
the balance of his account as far
as it respects transactions purely
commercial — the ballance to bear
an interest till paid.

N. B. The blank is not filld up, there
is no date but of the month — no
names of the Committee nor any
signature — this is the case for the
months April, May, June, July
& December preceding — But on Nov.r
28.th it is minuted thus — This day a
new Committee of Commerce was ap-
pointed viz.t Mr. Clymer, Mr. Bee &
Mr. Root, on the 29.th The minutes

Present Mr Clymer & Mr Fell
Mr Read does not appear to have
attended, & it seems probable that
Mr Bingham's affair was trans-
acted by Mr Clymer - In
Lr Mr follows. Mr Clymer moved
Congress & it was Resolved
That the Committee of Commerce
deliver the Books & Papers
of their department to the Comp-
troller of Accounts & that there
upon they be discharged.

The caution with wh
Mr Clymer acted in not stating any
examination of the Account as
the foundation of his report, precludes
any check upon him from his own pro-

proceeding in this business – But the following report on the Account will shew that it was admitted with all its errors on its head & without any voucher.

Navy board mid Desk.
Philadelphia 19 april 1781.

Gent[lm] In examining Mr Binghams Accounts which were sent down by your Board the 9[th] instant, I find some Errors in extending the Sums all which are particularly noted on a paper that now accompanies these Acc[ts]

I have seen no Voucher, but those that appear on the face of the Acc[ts]

The Hon[ble] I have the honor to be &c

Board of Admiralty.

sign'd James Read

How the Acc[ts]

Account came before Mr Read will appear from the foll.g letter

Gentlemen

In examining the Accts of Mr Bingham agt. the Committee find the above Sums in it are either transfers of Batteaux from your Board, or Articles that ought properly to be charged to it, which will require your allowance before a final adjustment can be made. Mr. Read head will deliver you all the documents in our hands which may assist you in the Settlement — I am obed.t Servt

The Hon.ble } by Order Geo. Clymer
Board of Admiralty

After the report of their Secretary the Admiralty Board appear to have examined the Acct & returned it so scratched & altered as to be almost unintelligible with the words Commercial or admitted as to each Article, & close with the following N. B. By the word, Admitted, the Board of Admiralty admit the charge to be properly made agt the Board and allow of the amount after deducting what is excepted by their remarks — By the word Commercial they mean only that the Articles are chargeable to the Government Service & therefore have not examined them. Upon what terms Mr Bringham went out the Board know not, nor what Commissn may have been allowed him. They have only add

to their remarks that 5 p.r Ct. for the sale of Bills of Exchange appears to them to be too high, & that the same Commiss.n of 5 p.r Ct. is charged on all his transactions

Admiralty Office May 11th 1791. Signed Tho.s Ellery

Tho.s Lewis { Commiss.r of the Admiralty

In another copy they remark that the 297, 324, 11, 6. cannot be allowed without explanation as well as sundry other charges. Against nearly all the Charges in this copy they note — no Vouchers.

These are strong testimonies against the admission of Mr. Bingham's accounts, yet the Commercial Committee, with Mr. Clymer or rather Mr. G. Clymer alone constituting the Committee, & his head, report in favour of it

of Congress relying upon this report vote
Mr Bingham that Balance.

This business being performed
Mr Clinton moved Congress on the
29th Dec. 1791 - That the Committee
of Commerce deliver the Books Papers
& Papers of their department to the
Comptroller of Accts & that thereupon
they be discharged - Which was
resolved - See Journals of Congress.

The following is Mr Gerrals final
Statement directed to the Comptroller.

Sir, By an Act of Congress of the 4th
June 1784, I find - That the late Board
of Treasury was authorised to pass to
the credit of Wm Bingham Esq. the
sum of, as a balance due to him from
the U. S. on acct. of commercial transactions
on

on the french W.t Ind.a & to bear an interest from that date till paied Liv.s Mart.e 507,641.

Also by their Act. 24.th Dec.r 1781. I find that they have authorized the farther sum to be paid to his credit as to be due to him as political Ag.t in the french W. Indies to bear an interest of 6 pr Ct from the 14 June 1781 — 110,324

Both these Sums amounting to 617,965.

having been carried to his credit in the Treasury Books — But the Superintendant of finance being desirous to have these claims finally closed the following State has been made.

617,965 liv.s Martinique equal to four hundred & eleven thous.d 976 liv.s 13.4 tournois at the Exchange of 3 liv.s Mart.e for 2 tourn.s Liv.s tourn.s 411,976,13.4

To which add Int.t from 14 June 1781. to 4 Dec.r Do — 11,672,13.4

Liv.s 423,649,6.8

Amount brot over ——— 423,649.6.8

From w.h is to be deducted 100000.tt being the Amount of the Superintendant of Finance's order in his favor on Wm Grand dat.d 4th Dec.r 1781. it being the order of the Superintend.t to me, that he should be charg.d therewith of that date ——— 100000.tt

Balance ——— 323,649.6.8.

To w.h is to be added the interest from 5th Dec.r 1781. to 23d Do. 1782 inclusive being 1 y.r 19d.s at 6 p.r ct. 20,443,16.9.

That from this statement there appears to be due to Wm Bing.m ——— 344,093,3,5.

I am to observe, that the sum of 100000.tt charg.d him in this State made of Wm Grand's Acc.t being the Amount, of thirteen drafts, drawn on

the Commrs of the U.S. at Paris in pursuance of an Act of Congress of the 16 Apl 1778, has been credited by them on a settlement made with the Secret Committee, as pr. Mr. Joseph Pennells Original herewith (a)

Also from his own assertions & from a credit given in his Acct. sold by the Commercial Committee prior to the foregoing balances being struck in Congress it appears he has credit 53290 Dlls being the amount of 12000 ster. Ordered to be pd him by the Resolves of Congress of the 8th March 1781 Cer. 17780. If this sum be stated & charged in the Treasury books with 31,000 Dlls the sum of 31000 as well as the residue

(a) This only proves that Mr. J. Reed had what was not true, for no such settlement could have been made with a Committee which did not then exist. The Secret Committee was abolished in 1777 see Journals of Congress & no such Resolve on the

being 22.290 dlls. sum of pension if not already drawn to be charged to the Comm.rs Comm.ee (a)

Dec.r 29.th 1792

Pat.k Darroll

Jas. Mellegan Esq.r

On the same subject as the foll.g

Rec.d of the Register of the Treasury a Warrant drawn by the Superintend.t in favour of the Treasurer of the United States for three hundred Sixty four thousand, seaven hundred three hundredths of a dollar in full whereof I do my claim as above stated Register's Office 28th Dec.r 1792 — Wm Bingham

The above Patrick Darroll having been appointed by the Board to adjust the Rec.ts of the Comm.rs Comm.ee sent the foll.g letter to the present Board of Treasury to be

(a) This Commission was dispensed 29th Oct.r 1781 by the Board of Treasury —

forwarded to Mr. Bingham

Sir Beeres at present engaged in set-
tling the Accts of the late Secret Comte
of Congress among whose Papers & am
sundry Accounts Current of your
Transactions as Commercial Agent
at Martinique from 1777 to 1781, all
previous to the 1st of Feb.y 1781, I find
entered in their Books Conformable
to your Accts — But your subsequent
Transactions have not yet been
entered to enable me to do this with
accuracy it is necessary that you
should explain some Inaccuracies
that I find therein w.h I take the li-
berty of enumerating herewith viz.t In
your Acct Curt dated 7.th July 1779

you Strike a Balance due you of
£17,735. 1. 1/6.
which is conformable to the Entries made of pr. Acct in the
late Secretary's books — but
in your subsequent Accounts
of 1st Feb.y & 30th May 1781. you
charge a balance of - - - - 257,109. 14.
as due you on the 2nd
7br July 1779 being a difference of 83,383, 16, 6

As there are no Documents in this Office to authorize the charge, I must request your explaining how this difference arises — You have omitted in your Acct crediting the Net Proceeds of the Sloop Mesopotamia's cargo, altho you charge the Sum of £31. as an outstanding debt due — You credit the

Bills of Exchange Remitted amounting to 532 gu 8 th p. you in March 1780 in part of the balance due you, at 60 d/s Martinique pr 100 l. at No the Exchange is at 8 a 5 p. cent. The U. States retain a sum of ---------- 119,092 a. 5.

Mar 9th — On what principles do you settle this.

From the manner in which the Committee have reported the Balance due you, it is impossible to ascertain, with any degree of precision what part of the charges made in y.r acct of the 30th May 1781 was rejected — The Balance struck by you, in the afores.d Acct was 642,093 a.

What reported to be due was only - 507,641.

difference ---------- 134,452 a

There is a necessity that this transaction should be explained as your Acct with the Committee cannot be closed till it is done. In the aforesaid Balance of 662,093 is included a charge of 267532.7 said to be due to Parsons Alston & Co. for Monies advanced on the requisition of Govr Rutledge of the State of S. Carolina which charge was also made by the aforesd Parsons Alston & Co at the Treasury, but rejected they being referd by the Act of Congress of the 8th March 1785, to the State of S. Carolina for compensation. If the Committee who settle your Acct admitted the foregoing Sum to your credit, & should the State of S Carolina form a settlement with Parsons & Alston You there will be two payments made for one & the same sum. This is a matter that requires explanation.

In your Acct current Feb.y 4th 1779

XVIII.

1779. you charge the following sums said to be outstanding debts due to the U. S. on sundry sales made by you on their Acct. As your residence at Martinique was for a considerable time after this period, I am to request you will advise me, whether any part of these sums were received by you, or whether there is any prospect of the public receiving any compensation therefor.

The Charges are as follow

Amount of a sum due from Gabriel Jure for the purchase of a part of the brig Cornelia & Molly's first Cargo — 540

Dr for a sum due from M. Laborie being part of the Mesopotamia's Cargo a) — 5 81

a) The Mesopotamia's Cargo was shipped the 15 Feb 1778 by Abraham Livingston Cont. Agt. at Charles-town & consigned to Wm Bingham Cont. Agt. — the Cargo 18 Cask Indigo, 56 Hhds Tobacco, 1 Cask Rice charged in Livingstons Acct £31,665,2,2.

Her Outfits & Purchase — 33,159,5,8

64,824,7,10

S. Carolina Currency at 32/6 to the Dollr

makes this Sum Dlls 3995 55 for which Mr Bingham is accountable.

D^o^ Sundry Sums due on the Sales of
the Ship Betsey Frigate Large masts
Thus in Acct. Sales [illegible] ——— 3572 6 11
D^o^ Of Sundrys due on the Sales made
on Acct. of the Owners & Crew of the
Brig^t^ Resistance. ——— 2205

Saml Fr——

Mr. Bingham's Answer
New York March 24. 1787. Sir)

I believe I can obviate the
difficulties you allude to, in your letter
Feby 23^d^ with respect to the entry
of my Acct^s^ without having recourse
to my Books which unfortunately
are at Philadelphia

The first remark is — that

on the 7th July 1779 – I strike a balance
of Liv: 173735, 17.6 What in my subse-
quent Acct of the 1st Feb.y 1781 I charge
a balance of Liv.s 257,119.14. being due
on the foregoing 7th July 1779 being
a difference of Liv: 83382.16.6. What as
there are no documents in the office
to authorise the charge ~~upon enquiry~~
my explaining how this diffe-
rence arises.

In the former Acct you
will observe that the sum of 83383/4
is credited for the proceeds of a large
of Flour of the Danish brig Hope
which was deposited in my hands

as continental agent, by order of the Government of Martinico being a prize taken by an American Privateer which was neutral property

The Owners of the armed vessel having attached my effects to a considerable amount from a misrepresentation of the case, I was desired to withdraw this credit which makes the precise difference you allude to. For a more particular state of this matter see Res: of Congress June 20. 1780 (a)

(a) Resd. That the Genl Court of the State of Massachusetts be requested to discharge the property of the Hon. Wm Bingham from the said attachment — Congress hereby pledging themselves — to pay all such sums of money with costs of suit as may be recovered agt. the Hon. W. Bingham in either or both the above actions.

N. B. Mr. B. confesses he had withdrawn this sum from the credit of the U. S. making it his own private property after he had credited it in 1779. Upon the ground then of having applied it to the use of the U. S. he obtains from Congress an indemnity in the suit for it. When he withdrew the credit, & thereby the public pay him that sum, which they

As for the Bills they are credited at their curt.e exchange at Martinique of 6 p.r C.t P.r dll.r The abundance of Bills had occasioned a fall in their value but if they had been taken at the rate they were current at Philadelphia the credit would have been only £5 5. p.r doll.r

Your next question is, after part of my charges, made in my Let.r of 30th 1781. had been rejected as the balance struck by me was £642,093. & that w.h was reported only amounted to Liv.s 507,641. w.h make a difference of Liv.s 134.452"

There was no part of the Let.r rejected — The balance as you observe was Liv.s 642,093

Deduct the demand of Parsons Alsop & Co.s w.h they solicited me to recover for them w.h was after-wards carried to their private Acc.t 26753

£ 615340

Brought over ——— Lw: 615,340.

The report in my favor on my Acct as
Commercial Agent ——— 507,641.
Do As political Agent, wh you take no Notice of — 110,324.

617,965
615,340

Balance 2,625

which I think arose from a change of Interest, occuring in the space of time, between the period that the Accts were delivered & untill that when they were finally closed.

With respect to the outstanding debts, none of them have been recovered that I can charge my memory with except a Sum of between Lw: 2000 & 3000 from the Owners of the Rattlesnake on Acct Sales of Ship Betsey's cargo, wh has been received since closing my Acct in which recovery I am interested to the proportional extent of the private demand I had on them. As for the precise Sum

as well as the credit of the Sloop Mesopotamia's cargo, I can furnish you with more particular information which I can have reference to my papers

I am, Dr. Sr. your ob. Hble Servt.
signed Wm Bingham.

Mr. Merrill

N. B continued — are pleased to pay to the Claimts on hom. By this manoeuvre he puts the money in his pocket let the judgment go as it may. This management is not unlike another of his, in wh. he borrowed of the french treasury in Martinique as a public Agent Dlls, 57803. He ~~[illegible]~~ brings a charge for it as laid out for public use, Yet is fully reimbursed to him in 1781. — In 1786 the french Consul demands it from the treasury of the U. S. as a public debt. Yet appears from the documents exhibited by the F. Consul, that Mr Bingham being applied to for payment in 84 gave his Note for part, & a promise to pay the remainder in Certificates, alleging that he had received them in payment from the U. S. when in fact he had before paid them near 4 years before.

The following Paper is copied from one found among the Papers of the Comm.d Comm.y

Invoice of French Arms imported in the Cutter Revenge Capt.n Cunningham from Martinique, Rec.d Feb.y 25. 1779

Sir/ The above is a true return of Muskets & Bayonets that I received from on board the Cutter Capt.n Cunningham from Martinique on the 25.th Feb.y 1779 in very bad order & having no Scabbards to the Bayonets. The total amount is 1650 Muskets & Bayonets. Jon.a Gostelow

To Col.o B. Flowers
& G. M. Stores

M. Stores

War Office March 23.d 1779

Gentlemen/ It appears that the above mentiond Arms were not only in bad order, but that they are of a very ordinary quality, being old Arms so much rusted & worn so thin that the Board have thought it proper to order the barrels to be taken from the Stocks & proved before they are issued for use/ I am &c

Comm.y Comm.ce Signd T. Pickering

Query Did Mr Clymer examine into this before he reported in favor of Mr. Bingham's Acct.

The following is in the hand writing of James Lovell of Boston — 1776 May 18. A letter from Mr Langdon was referred to the Committee of Secret Correspondence, who were directed to apply to the Marine Committee for the use of one or more of the Continental fleet to send the same to the french W. India Islands in order to procure, if possible, a number of muskets not exceeding 10,000 — They were also directed to endeavor to discover the designs of the French in assembling so large a fleet with such a number of troops in the W. I. & whether they meant to act for or against America — May 21. The Committee ordered Mr Morris to apply for the Sloop Hornet & Mr Dickenson to draft a letter to the Gen.l of Martinique for the purposes of the above Resolve. Also Instructions to Mr Bingham, who is to go with said letter & act as Agt for the U. Colonies in this business. — June 3. The Committee agree

to Instructions for Mr Bingham & signd them likewise signd & seald his Credentials. The Instructions say— You are to continue at Martinique 'till we recall you— It will readily occur to you that an appearance of commercial views, will cover the political

We the Undersigned, being the Committee of Congress for Secret Correspondence, do hereby certify, that the Bearer Will.m Bingham Esq.r is appointed by us to go into the french W. Indies, there to transact such business commercial & political as we have committed to his care, on behalf of & by authority of the U. States— In testimony whereof we have hereunto set our hands & seals at Philadelphia this 22. day of May 1776. Signd

B. Franklin
B. Harrison
Robt. Morris
Jno. Dickenson

Observeations on Mr Bingham's Acct

Mr Bingham charges the U. States with the following Articles which are entered from the Invoices & Bills of Loading

	Chests	No	Neat Cost
Arms	104	2706	112,043
Powder	290 lbs.	29,030 lbs.	69,250
Blankets	16 Bales	856	1135 6 10
Broadcloth	10 do		1171 4. 16
Rappd Cotton	5 do		592 12. 10
Pennistones	9 do		1628 4, 10
Salt	694 Bush.		1646. 12
Lead	68 pigs.		4950, 10, 11
			231, 156. 7. 11.

The Invoices & Bills of Loading for the above Articles of the Seine & Maryland Packet's Cargoes

80 Chests of Arms no number on each mentioned, but as they appear to have been shipped with 26 in each Chest, the number will be 2080

80 bales of tents & cloths — There are three Bills of lading not admitted, because it does not appear on whose acct the articles were shipped, otherwise than that it may be presumed the person that received them on board they belonged to Mr Bingham — 4 Bills in english for 40 chests of Arms — the other two in french.

It therefore appears that Mr Bingham is chargeable with all the Seine's Cargo except 80 chests of Arms & 80 Do Tents & Cloths — & with all the Marie Co the Seine's Cargo.

Amount of chests of Arms in the Seine		317
~~containing~~ Deduct		80
		237
containing in number of pieces		
Do Do Tents in the same	129	
Do Do Drapery	25	
	154	
Deduct	80	
	74	

There are no Vouchers for the 200 barrells of Powder — Mr Bingham is therefore still accountable for 7110 Muskets
Bales of Cloth & Drapery — 74.
Barells of Powder — 2006, with the whole Cargo of the Mary Catharine

If we charge the Muskets at 150 ℔ Martinico each & the Bales of Cloth & Drapery at 4000 ℔ each & the Powder at half a dollar a pound, the amount will be as follows.

7110 Muskets at 150 ℔ each	355,500
74 Bales Cloth & Drapery at 4000	296,000
2000 ℔ pow.d 200,000 ℔ at ½ d ℔	825,000
The Mary Catharines Cargo, say	250,000
Total in Lieu Muskets &c	
with 50 p.C less than tourn.s	1,726,500.

We have seen Mr Bingham move
from the Treasury of the U. S. a full
payment for all his demands arising from
his transactions in the W. Indies & the trea-
sury books shew, that he was paid in specie.
This was done by the absolute authority
of Mr. Morris, Congress having only
voted a credit for that sum in the
treasury books. It required nine States
in Congress to dispose of the public mo
ney — but Mr Morris, being more
powerful than nine States, disposes
of it at his will & pleasure, nor is
there a single instance, in which
his partners or his favorites were
not paid in specie, while the
Army was almost mutinying
for want of pay, & clothing.
Mr Bingham having been thus

paid his specie, writes a letter to his Attorney dated Philadelphia 27 May 1783 from which the follow.g is extracted.

"Some demands may perhaps be made from the West Indies for debts contracted on Acct of the U. S. — I have wrote to this class of Creditors & informed them of my intention & willingness to pay them an exact proportion of the monies I have received from Congress on account of liquidating these obligations taking in & considering all claims I have on the U. S. that are entitled to be classed under the same general principle with their demands I have directed their answers to be forwarded me in Europe where I expect to arrange & settle them.

Extracts from the Original this 31st Jan.y 1785. J. Pennell.

Mr Bingham had not stated a single claimant as "due to the U. S. on the N. Indians, he had charged the U. S. with outstanding debts due to them for their property sold, by crediting himself with the amount which constitutes part of the immense balance he received. Yet he appears to have planned the same imposition upon the Individuals with whom he transacted business, that he did upon the French Minister — that is to pay them with Certificates when he had received hard money for what was in fact due to them, tho he represented it as due to himself.